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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS,

OF THE TOWN OF

WEST BRIDGEWATER,

EMBRACING THOSE OF THE

SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS, OVERSEERS OF THE POOR, TOWN CLERK, AUDITING COMMITTEE, SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1870.

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NORTH BRIDGEWATER:
GAZETTE JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.
1870.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1870.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The Selectmen of the town of West Bridgewater submit the following report pertaining to matters in their department.

RECEIPTS.

From March 1, 1869, to March 1, 1870, the following sums of money have been paid into the town treasury, viz:

1869.	May	Elijah Hancock, cow, in part,	$30 00
	July 12	Town of Plymouth, support of A. Ashport's wife,	18 00
	Oct.	Charles Atwell, plank,	1 96
	" 30,	Howard & Washburn's note,	1,000 00
	" "	" " " "	300 00
	" 5,	Tax bills of 1869,	12,246 76
	Nov. 2,	S. L. Pratt, liquor fund, in part,	200 00
	Dec. 4,	Howard & Washburn, note,	1,350 00
	" 7,	Jacob H. Loud, state aid,	854 00
	" "	" " " corporation tax,	258 12
1870.	Jan. 21,	Charles Howard, work at alms house,	77 46
	" 29,	Jacob H. Loud, school fund,	171 92
	Feb. 5,	Charles Howard, work at alms house,	85 00
	" 26,	Wm. R. Sever, tax on dogs,	140 09
	" "	Geo. M. Pratt, per centage on taxes,	113 30

1870. Feb. 28,	Albert Copeland, liquor fund, in part,	$100 00
" "	J. C. Swan, lumber,	18 60
" "	Eliza F. Copeland, tax additional,	9 58
" "	Cornelius Sullivan, " "	2 14
" "	Timothy W. Fisher, " "	9 50
Balance in the treasury, March 1, 1869,		5,801 49
		$22,787 92

EXPENDITURES.

Since March 1, 1869, we have given 247 town orders, of $8,271 94, on Geo. M. Pratt, the treasurer of the town, as follows, viz:

For Schools,	$2,823 65
Roads and Bridges,	2,312 00
State Aid,	850 00
Alms House,	837 98
Incidentals,	648 66
Poor out of Alms House,	397 09
Repairs on School Houses,	335 27
Abatements,	67 29
	$8,271 94

The treasurer has paid the state tax,	$2,550 00
County tax,	1,281 39
Howard & Washburn, note,	2,675 14
Azel Howard, two notes,	1,084 96
General order,	436 14
Mrs. Lydia B. Shaw, interest,	101 35

The treasurer has paid Mrs. Nancy J. Howard, interest,		$60 00
Mrs. Betsey Edson,	"	18 00
Mr. Bradford Packard,	"	18 00
Mr. Charles H. Colwell,	"	6 00
Six per ct. dis't on taxes of 1869,		734 80
Town orders unpaid March 1,		47 43
		$17,285 15
Cash in treasury March 1,		5,502 77
		$22,787 92

SCHOOLS.

Balance in treasury, March 1, 1869,	$902 61
Appropriation for 1869,	3,000 00
Received from the state, school fund,	171 92
	$4,074 53
Amount drawn from the treasury,	2,823 65
Balance of school money,	$1,250 88

BEAVER SCHOOL.

Order of $178 25 not drawn.

CENTRE GRAMMAR.

Paid Miss Josephine C. Austin,	spring term,	$100 00
" " " "	fall "	100 00
James A. Francis,	winter " in part,	88 00
for fuel,		39 62
" Incidentals,		21 39
		$349 01

CENTRE PRIMARY.

Paid Miss Sarah W. Alden, spring term,	$70 00
" " " " fall "	75 00
" " " " winter "	96 00
for fuel,	20 12
" Incidentals,	9 52
	$270 64

COCHESETT GRAMMAR.

Paid Mr. Artemas Wiswall, spring term,	$125 00
" " " fall "	125 00
" " " winter " in part,	100 00
Mr. Josiah G. Bassett,	62 50
for fuel,	29 12
" Incidentals,	17 95
	$459 57

COCHESETT PRIMARY.

Paid Miss Irene S. Wood, spring term,	$70 00
" " " " fall "	75 00
" " " " winter "	96 00
	$241 00

Fuel and Incidentals included in the Grammar.

EAST SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Cora I. Young, spring term,	$80 00
" " " " fall "	80 00
Mr. Edward P. Warner, winter term, in part,	68 60
for fuel,	17 95
" Incidentals,	5 10
	$251 65

JERUSALEM SCHOOL.

Paid Miss F. Josephine Randall, winter term,	$96 00
" Helen S. Dunbar, spring "	80 00
" " " " fall "	80 00
for fuel,	22 25
" Incidentals,	9 75
	$288 00

NORTH SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Hattie E. Brown, winter term,	$96 00
" " " " spring term,	80 00
" Ella A. Elliot, fall term,	80 00
" Sybil Williams, winter term,	96 00
For Fuel,	30 70
" Incidentals,	7 85
	$390 55

NORTH CENTRE.

Paid Miss Mary Lincoln, spring term,	$80 00
" Clara L. Gray, fall term,	80 00
" Caroline Howard, winter term,	96 00
For Fuel,	39 00
" Incidentals,	4 50
	$289 50

SOUTH SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Sybel Williams, winter term,	$96 00
" " " spring term,	80 00
" " " fall term,	80 00
For Fuel,	17 95
" Incidentals,	9 78
	$283 73
Total,	$2,823 65

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Appropriation,	$2,500

District No. 1. Geo. M. Pratt, Surveyor.

Amount left over, March 1, 1869,	$84 48
Appropriated for the year ending March, 1870,	400 00
Total amount,	$484 48
Expended,	441 09
	$43 39

District No. 2. John Eaton, Surveyor.

Amount left over,	$55 40
Appropriated,	225 00
Total amount,	$380 40
Expended,	202 00
	$178 40

District No. 3. Joseph E. Ryder, Surveyor.

Amount left over,	$94 19
Appropriated,	350 00
Total amount,	$444 19
Expended,	336 61
	$107 58

District No. 4. HENRY COPELAND, Surveyor.

Amount left over,	$23 57
Appropriated,	210 00
Total,	$233 57
Expended,	184 72
	$48 85

District No. 5. THOMAS AMES, Surveyor.

Amount left over,	$40 65
Appropriated,	215 00
	$255 65
Expended,	27 85
	$227 80

District No. 6. CYRUS ALGER, Surveyor.

Amount left over,	$110 11
Appropriated,	300 00
Total,	$410 11
Expended,	281 56
	$128 55

District No. 7. JOSIAH Q. HARTWELL, Surveyor.

*Amount left over,	$247 28
Appropriated,	300 00
Total,	$547 28
Expended,	477 33
	$69 95

*Including $100 appropriated for a bridge in 1868, but not expended till this year.

$500 was appropriated for repairs on the Swamp Road toward Raynham. Of this amount there has been expended $360.84, leaving a balance unexpended of $139.16.

Total amount expended,	$2,312 00
" " reserved,	943 68

STATE AID.

Paid from March 1, 1869, to March 1, 1870:

Mrs. Mary Mullens,	on ac't	of her	husband	for	13	mos.,	$104 00
Catherine E. Coffin,	"	"	"	"	12	"	96 00
Lydia B. Shaw,	"	"	"	"	"	"	96 00
Mr. Seneca Fulsom,	"	"	his son	"	"	"	96 00
Patrick Dorgan,	"	"	self	"	"	"	72 00
Jas. P. Gallagher,	"	"	"	"		"	66 00
Mrs. Salome Stetson,	"	"	her son	"	12	"	48 00
S. H. Millett,	"	"	" "	"	"	"	48 00
Lucinda S. Lothrop	"	"	" "	"	"	"	48 00
Charlotte E. Hansell,	"	her husband		"	"	"	48 00
Elizabeth J. Dunlap	"	"	" "	"	"	"	48 00
*Mary E. Howard,	"	"	" "	"	4	"	32 00
†Mr. Edgar E. Colwell,	"	"	self	"	3	"	18 00
†John Sweeney,	"	"	"	"	"	"	18 00
†Capt. Chas. E. Churchill,	"	"		"	2	"	12 00
							$850 00
Amount paid last year,							$886 00

*Recently came from Marshfield to reside in this town.
†Are not now receiving State Aid.

SUPPORT OF POOR AT ALMS HOUSE.

Paid *Ruel W. Dunbar, smith work previous to April 1,	$1 25
*Elijah Hancock, 3 mo's salary " " " "	62 50
* " " balance due him on settlement to April 1,	23 96
*Geo. R. Drake, goods furnished previous to April 1,	52 02
*Daniel E. Brown, soap " " " " "	3 90
Charles Perkins, goods furnished for house,	132 09
Charles Howard, salary eleven months,	229 16
Thomas Howard, labor nine months,	137 50
Willard Johnson, cooking stove and ware,	24 60
Ezekiel Briggs, difference in horses,	62 00
F. E. Howard, horse collar,	1 50
John L. Hayward, hay cutter,	3 00
F. E. Howard, three heifers,	90 00
Charles Macomber, damage to his garden,	4 50
†Dr. J. C. Swan, medical attendance,	30 00
	$837 98

INCIDENTALS.

Paid Geo. M. Pratt, salary as treasurer and collector,	$150 00
F. E. Howard treasurer of parish, use of vestry,	75 00
A. T. Jones, printing 450 copies town reports,	44 80
William Alger, land for Cohesett school lot,	44 00

*These bills were contracted by Mr. Hancock, the late warden, previous to April 1, 1869.

†An old bill of several years' standing.

Paid Cyrus Leonard, school books,	$37 80
Nahum Leonard, Jr., services as selectman,	29 50
For two gravel screens,	12 00
" express on "	1 50
Hosea Kingman, legal services,	10 00
James Alger, repairs on Cochesett school-house, (old bill),	6 16
Joseph Kingman, gravel,	3 00
Hiram Howard, gravel, 25 cents per cord,	14 75
Thomas Ames, " " " " "	11 00
A. T. Jones, printing voting lists, March, 1868,	10 83
G. W. Sylvester, Easton, damage to carriage,	14 50
Austin Packard, lecture fund,	100 00
S. L. Pratt, going with hearse twenty-three times,	62 50
Charles Atwell, repairing scraper,	3 60
Charles Howard, stone for bridge,	1 50
Francis Perkins, timber for bridge,	1 00
F. E. Howard, stationery,	9 17
" " " postage stamps,	4 50
" " " express on books,	80
A. T. Jones & Co., printing assessor's notices,	75
	$648 16

EXPENSES OF POOR OUT OF ALMSHOUSE.

Paid State Lunatic Asylum, Taunton, board of Horatio Shaw,	$134 64
Mr. Timothy W. Fisher and family, supplies,	102 00
Mrs. Abigail Snell, East Bridgewater,	82 00

Paid Randolph, for Francis Fadden, at State Nautical School,	$26 00
Mrs. Fryes, care of Hammond child, Malden,	16 00
Howard, Clark & Co., funeral expenses of Jacob Talbot, Stoughton,	14 00
South Scituate, supplies furnished Jacob Talbot,	10 75
David Cobb, supplies furnished Mrs. Sarah A. Pike, of North Bridgewater,	8 00
State Nautical School, for Eugene A. Moore, Bridgewater,	3 70
	$397 09

Of the above amount there is due this town:

From Malden, for support of the Hammond child,	$16 00
Stoughton, for funeral expenses of Jacob Talbot,	14 00
Bridgewater, for support of Eugene A. Moore, (probably),	3 70
	$33 70

REPAIRS ON SCHOOL-HOUSES.

Centre Grammar, painting,	$94 25
" Primary, "	12 44
Cochesett, fence,	124 95
Jerusalem	3 00
North,	10 63
North Centre, fence,	65 00
South, painting,	25 00
	$335 27
Town appropriated	$300 00

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

1867	*Orin T. Gray,	$2 11
	Roxellana R. Howard,	7 60
	Jane S. T. Howard,	8 00
1868	Thomas Conoly,	1 88
	Patrick Donahue,	1 88
	Azel Dinsmore,	1 88
	Timothy W. Fisher,	8 37
	George G. Fish,	1 88
	Michael Garvey,	1 88
	H. N. Howard and wife,	7 29
	Simeon F. Hall,	1 88
	William Hassett,	1 88
	James Kane,	1 88
	Charles F. Lothrop,	1 88
	Benj. F. Langley,	1 88
	Charles G. Moore,	1 88
	Horace Y. Mitchell,	1 88
	Wm. H. Perkins,	1 88
	Augustus Ripley,	1 88
	Salome Stetson,	86
	Patrick Spellman,	1 88
	Hiram Thayer,	5 56
		$67 29

*Had a bill of nearly same amount against the town.

GUIDE BOARDS.

There are, or will be as soon as practicable, Guide Boards at or near the following named places:

Joshua T. Ryder's,	John Walker's,
Justin W. Richards',	Molbry Ripley's,
Joseph Kingman's,	James Alger's furnace,
Lewis Ryder's,	Joseph Alger's,
Pine Hill Cemetery,	Barnabas Dunbar's,
Charles Howard, 2d's,	Stillman W. Hersey's,
West of alms house,	Dwelley Fobes',
Edmund Geary's,	Benjamin Howard's,
Pardon Copeland's,	George Wilbar's,
North Center school-house,	John B. Holmes',
Heman Copeland's, (new)	Center post-office,
Nahum Leonard's,	Thomas Mackin's.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

Paid F. E. Howard, services from Nov. 1, 1868, to Nov. 1, 1869,	$107 00
F. E. Howard, 256 town orders, 5 cts. each,	12 80
" 110 letters, 10 cts. each,	11 00
	$130 80
Cyrus Leonard, visiting schools from Nov. 1, 1868, to Nov. 1, 1869, 79 visits,	79 00
Cyrus Leonard, exchanging school books and use of team,	14 00
Cyrus Leonard, preparing school reports, 1868 & '69,	17 50
" " 2 trips to Boston to provide for the schools,	8 60

Paid Cyrus Leonard, cash paid for freight and express from Boston,	$5 44
" " blank-book, stationery and postage,	1 91
	126 15
Charles Perkins, services,	10 00
" " cash paid for Cochesett school,	3 20
" " cash to F. W. Howard, for building fence,	51 62
	64 82
Austin Packard, going to Bridgewater, making and sending returns,	3 00
Austin Packard, recording, &c., births, marriages, and deaths,	19 60
Austin Packard, making report,	1 00
" " express, postage and blanks,	2 93
	26 53
Eli Wheeler, services as constable 2 1-2 years,	14 00
" " cash paid,	6 50
	20 50
Albert L. Alger, stone, drawing gravel, and extra work on bridge in swamp,	20 00
James Howard, services and team,	6 00
" " cash paid,	56
	6 56
Bradford Packard, three days' time causing children to be sent to school, procuring wood, protecting school property, &c.,	6 00
Bradford Packard, cash paid,	68
	6 68

Paid James Copeland, services and team,	$6 00
Luther Richards, gravel,	6 60
Caleb Howard, tolling bell,	6 50
Joseph Kingman, gravel,	5 50
W. J. Stanley, tolling bell,	5 00
C. H. Morrison, tolling bell,	1 50
H. H. Whitman, services,	1 00
Nathan Copeland, "	1 00
Henry W. Leach, "	1 00
Amount,	$436 14

HENRY H. WHITMAN,
NATHAN COPELAND, } *Committee.*
HENRY W. LEACH,

This report was adopted by the town, Nov. 2, 1869, and the specified sums have been paid by the general order, directly from the treasury.

AUDITORS' REPORT, No. 2.

Paid Edward S. Hersey, services as Superintendent,	$32 00
" " " writing school report,	6 00
" " " charts and cards,	7 00
	45 00
F. E. Howard, services from Nov. 1, 1869, to Mar. 1, 1870, 12 1-2 days,	25 00
F. E. Howard, writing 42 letters,	4 20
" " " " 116 orders,	5 80
	35 00

Paid Nahum Leonard, Jr., services previous to Nov. 1, '68,	$2 50
" " " " from Nov. 1, 1868, to Nov. 1, 1869,	27 00
Nahum Leonard, Jr., services from Nov. 1, 1869, to March 1, 1870,	2 00
	31 50
Austin Packard, going to Bridgewater, making returns, &c.,	2 00
Austin Packard, recording, &c., births, marriages and deaths,	17 80
Austin Packard, recording returns of county commissioners, on petitions of Edward Tisdale, and Lyman Copeland,	3 00
Austin Packard, express and postage,	28
	23 08
Charles Perkins, services,	12 00
Henry H. Whitman, services,	1 00
Henry W. Leach, "	1 00
	$148 58

HENRY H. WHITMAN, } *Auditing*
HENRY W. LEACH, } *Committee.*

February 26, 1870.

This report will be presented to the town March 14. $29 50 of the above sum has been paid N. Leonard, Jr., by town order No. 209, dated January 11, 1870.

LIQUOR FUND.

There is due the town from Albert Copeland a note of $70 00 bearing date March 1, 1870, being the balance of the Liquor Fund.

There are also at the establishment of the late agency, various casks, jugs, measures, &c., also some wine and more ale. The latter seems to have been *extended*, (lost its savor) to such an extent, from age or some other cause, as to render it worthless for mechanical or medicinal purposes.

TOWN NOTES.

Ezra S. Copeland,	note and interest to March 1,			$40 00
Mrs. Betsey Edson,	"	"	"	313 50
Lydia B. Shaw,	"	"	"	315 00
Charlotte Packard,	"	"	"	786 00
Nancy J. Howard,	"	"	"	1,030 00
Austin Packard,	"	"	"	2,390 00
Charles H. Colwell,	"	"	"	102 50
Francis Dunbar,	"	"	"	1,210 00
Bradford Packard,	"	"	"	303 00
F. E. Howard, guardian,	"	"	"	80 00
*Soldiers' Monument Association,		"	"	2,190 00
				$8,760 00

*Including the amount deposited by George D. Ryder.

TOWN OFFICERS.

There has been paid, or is due, the following named sums to the several persons named below for services performed from March 1, 1869, to March 1, 1870:

Austin Packard, as town clerk,	$22 80
F. E. Howard, as selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor,	121 75
N. Leonard, Jr., as selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor,	25 00
Charles Perkins, as selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor,	22 00
George M. Pratt, as treasurer and collector,	150 00
Eli Wheeler, as constable,	5 00
Cyrus Leonard, as superintendent of the schools from March 1, to Nov. 1, 1869,	54 00
Edward S. Hersey, as superintendent of the schools from Nov. 1, 1869, to Mar. 1, 1870,	38 00
James Howard, road committee,	6 00
James Copeland, road committee,	6 00
Henry H. Whitman, auditing committee,	2 00
Henry W. Leach, " "	2 00
Nathan Copeland, " "	1 00
	$455 55
*Elijah Hancock, warden alms house,	20 83
*Charles Howard, " " "	229 16

*Appointed by the overseers of the poor.

DEBT OF TOWN.

Dr.	Outstanding notes with interest to Mar. 1, 1870,	$8,760 00
	School appropriations now or soon due, about	600 00
	Road " due June 1,	943 68
		$10,303 68

Cr.	Balance in treasury, on settlement Mar. 1, 1870,	$5,502 77
	Due state aid of 1869,	850 00
	" " " to March 1, 1870,	144 00
	P. S. Harding, note, (alms house)	700 00
	Albert Copeland, note, (liquor agency)	70 00
	Elijah Hancock, balance due for cow,	15 00
	Malden, cash paid for care of Hammond child,	16 00
	Stoughton, cash paid for funeral expenses of Jacob Talbot,	14 00
	Bridgewater, (probably) cash paid the Nautical School, for Eugene A. Moore,	3 07
	Alms house, bills due,	10 10
	Various other sources,	10 00
	Charles Howard, cash on account of alms house,	62 00
		$7,397 57

In estimating the debt of the town last year, the School and Road appropriations were not included, hence the difference.

Present debt of town,	$2,906 11

We suggest the following named sums, as appropriations for the coming year:

Common Schools,	$3,000 00
Roads and Bridges,	2,000 00
Incidentals,	1,200 00
Poor,	1,200 00

Building the roads at Jerusalem and Cochesett, recently laid out by the county commissioners; building or repairing school-houses, or appropriating money for a High School,—these matters we leave without suggestion, for your serious consideration.

F. E. HOWARD,
N. LEONARD, Jr.,
CHARLES PERKINS, } *Selectmen of West Bridgewater.*

REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF POOR.

The Overseers of the Poor present the following report in regard to the condition of affairs at the alms house:

Estimated value of Alms House, May 1, 1869,	$5,800
" " " Real Estate " " "	3,900
" " " Personal " " "	1,900
Number of acres of land, 85 3-4	

NAMES AND AGES OF INMATES.—Mrs. Lucy Carr, 82; Ephraim Packard, 70; Fanny Keith, 66; Otis Willis, 64; Esther S. James, 5.

Relief rendered to 29 travelers.

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AT THE ALMS HOUSE, FEBRUARY 22, 1870.

1 Horse,	$125 00	75 Bushels Potatoes,	$60 00
2 Oxen,	210 00	3 " Turnips,	2 25
5 Cows,	285 00	10 " Ashes,	2 00
1 Heifer, (blood)	40 00	4 Gallons Soap,	60
3 Swine,	36 00	42 lbs. Hard Soap,	4 00
18 Fowls,	18 00	22 " Butter,	10 56
		48 " Lard,	12 00
Total am't live stock,	$714 00	129 " Ham,	25 80
		2 1-2 Bushels Meal,	2 88
7 Tons English Hay,	$196 00	100 lbs. Fine Feed,	1 65
5 " Meadow "	60 00	1 Peck Cranberries,	1 00
Carriage and Harness,	45 00	21 doz. Candles,	3 78
18 Bushels Corn,	22 50		
9 " Rye,	12 15		$1,180 67
3 " Barley,	4 50		

Groceries,	$5 00	Farming Tools,	$77 75
325 lbs. Salt Pork,	71 50	Beds and Bedding,	91 00
200 " " Beef,	33 33	Furniture,	11 18
30 cords Manure,	180 00	Stoves,	40 00
1 thousand Shingles,	3 00	Ware of various kinds,	29 82
700 feet Lumber,	14 00	Supplies,	1 75
42 Rails,	2 94	Towels,	75
18 Posts,	3 60		
2 Carts,	50 00		$675 62
Pair Wheels,	30 00		
Hay Rigging,	10 00	Total,	$1,856 29
Wood Cart,	10 00		
Wheel-Barrow,	5 00	Last year,	$1,910 73
Drag,	5 00		

POOR AT THE ALMS HOUSE. Dr.

Expenses of Poor at alms house, (see selectmens' report) $837 98

Mr. Charles Howard, the warden of the alms house, has paid from the receipts of the house, the following sums:

3 swine,	$15 00	Butchering,	3 75
Clothing and bedding,	66 55	Use of pasture,	1 50
Shoes,	15 86	" " ox wagon,	75
Oil,	2 87	Smoking hams,	40
Furniture and ware,	20 11	Molasses,	30 29
Farming tools,	7 64	Sugar,	30 76
Salt,	5 39	Coffee,	6 06
Phosphate of lime,	14 91	Nails,	6 25
White-washing,	1 50	Tin-ware,	5 30
Pasturing oxen,	4 50	Crackers,	4 86
Saw bill,	9 63	Medicine,	3 19
Seed potatoes,	1 50	Tea,	6 80
Matches,	1 65	Meat,	21 73

Flour,	$55 75	Grain,	$131 65
Posts and rails,	20 50	Fish,	12 03
Tobacco and snuff,	3 55	Smith work,	22 19
Apples,	6 30		
Cranberries,	2 00		$356 35
Garden and hay seeds,	12 16		
Soap,	10 83		1,194 33
Repairs on carts, &c.,	19 62	Total personal property Mar. 1, 1869,	$1,910 63
Groceries not included in the above,	25 22		
Labor on the farm,	6 00		$3,104 96

POOR AT THE ALMS HOUSE.	Cr.
Received of P. S. Harding, for team work,	$150 00
other sources, " " "	87 15
For poultry,	49 57
Hay and straw,	66 59
Potatoes,	39 20
Calves,	33 06
Eggs,	8 62
Milk,	6 17
Use of cattle,	34 00
Hams,	12 40
Pork,	34 16
Lard,	7 50
Cheese,	2 00
Butter,	111 22
Lumber,	28 21
1 hide,	4 13
of I. S. Wilbar, fat cow, (3-4)	45 10
Dr. J. C. Swan, for lumber,	18 60
	$741 81

Cash paid into town treasury as follows:

Elijah Hancock, cow, in part,	$30 00
Charles Atwell, plank,	1 96
Charles Howard, work,	162 46
	$194 42

BILLS DUE THE ALMS HOUSE.

Russell W. Morse,	$5 10
William O. Alger,	2 00
John Lynch,	1 00
Luther Blood,	2 00
Elijah Hancock,	15 00
	$25 10
Cash on hand,	62 00
	$1,023 33
Value of personal property March 1, 1870,	1,856 20
	$2,879 62

Leaving a balance against the alms house of $225 34. Average number, 5 9-13. Cost per week, .75,5. Cost per week, including interest on value of property, ($5,800) at 6 per cent., $2 09.

We have re-engaged Mr. Charles Howard as warden for another year at a salary of $280 00.

F. E. HOWARD,
N. LEONARD, Jr.,
CHARLES PERKINS, } *Overseers of the Poor.*

REPORT OF THE ASSESSORS.

The assessors of the town take the liberty to submit the following report:

On the 1st of May, 1870, we found the total valuation of the town to be $842,537; of personal estate, $259,286; of real estate, $583,251.

No. of acres of land taxed,	1,017
Dwelling houses,	330
Horses,	233
Cows,	388
Oxen,	85
Heifers, (two years)	49
" (one year)	49
Bulls,	7
Sheep,	8
Poll tax payers,	449
Legal voters,	363
Assessed only for a poll tax,	109
Total tax of State, County and Town,	$12,272 25
Rate per cent.,	.0135
State tax of 1869,	$2,550 00
County tax of 1869,	1,281 39
Town " " "	8,000 00
Overlayings,	440 86
Total tax on polls of $2 00 each,	898 00
No. of persons between 5 and 15 years of age, May 1, 1869,	387
No. of male persons between 18 and 45 years of age, May 1, 1869,	200
No. of dogs reported to town clerk by assessors,	71

The assessors have sent a duplicate copy of the town valuation to the Secretary of State, for the use of the present Legislature.

F. E. HOWARD,
N. LEONARD, Jr.,
CHARLES PERKINS, } *Assessors.*

March 1, 1870.

LIST OF JURORS.

List of the names of persons selected as Jurors to be presented to the Town at the Annual Meeting, March 14th.

1858.	Josiah Q. Hartwell.
1863.	Friend W. Howard.
	Erland Thayer.
1864.	Lucius Hayward.
1866.	Charles E. Churchill.
	Perez P. Field.
	John B. Holmes.
1867.	Albert Copeland.
	George Hayward.
	James Howard.
	Leavitt T. Howard.
1868.	Cyrus Leonard.
	Abiel Washburn.
1869.	Caleb Copeland, Jr.
	Simeon J. Dunbar.
1869.	Milo Howard.
	William H. Jennings.
	Henry S. Keith.
	Elisha Leonard.
	George M. Pratt.
	Molbry A. Ripley.
1870.	Albert L. Alger.
	Horace Bartlett.
	Heman Copeland.
	John Copeland.
	Lucius Dunbar.
	Stillman W. Hersey.
	Amasa Howard.
	Jacob Leonard.
	Irving Packard.

F. E. HOWARD,
N. LEONARD, JR.
CHARLES PERKINS,
} *Selectmen of West Bridgewater.*

West Bridgewater, March 1, 1870.

TOWN MEETING.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.—PLYMOUTH, ss.—
To either of the Constables of the Town of West Bridgewater, county of Plymouth and state of Massachusetts, GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the town of West Bridgewater, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet at the Town Hall on MONDAY, MARCH 14, at 12 1-2 o'clock P. M., then and there to vote on the following articles, viz.:

1st. To choose a Moderator to preside in said Meeting.

2nd. To hear and act upon the report of any Officers or Committees of the Town.

3rd. To act on the list of Jurors, as reported by the Selectmen.

4th. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

5th. To see if the Town will raise one thousand dollars a year for five years, in addition to the five hundred dollars a year that Mr. Otis Drury has offered to give for the same term, for the purpose of establishing a High School, as set forth in his letter to the Selectmen.

6th. To see if the Town will convey its interest in the Pine Hill Cemetery to the owners of lots therein on suitable conditions, and purchase more land for the enlargement thereof.

7th. To act on the returns of the County Commissioners locating highways on the petition of Lyman Copeland and others, also on the petition of Edward Tisdale and others.

8th. To determine the manner of repairing the Highways and Bridges the ensuing year.

9th. To raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town the ensuing year, and determine the manner of collecting the same.

10th. To see if the Town will choose a Superintendent of Public Schools, and decide upon the salary of the same.

11th. (By petition.) To see what action the town will take in reference to removing obstructions in the Highway leading from the residence of the late Luther Hayward to Pine Hill Cemetery.

12th. (By request.) To see if the town will appropriate a sum, not exceeding one hundred and fifty dollars, to defray in part the expenses of a course of scientific lectures.

13th. To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to offer a reward of a sufficient sum of money to more effectually protect their Highways, Bridges, Guide Boards, School Houses, and other property from unnecessary damage.

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at each of the Post Offices in town, and at the Depot at Keith's Station in said town, seven days, at least, before the time of holding said Meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at or before the time and place of meeting.

Given under our hands this twenty-eighth day of February, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy.

F. E. HOWARD,
N. LEONARD, JR.,
CHARLES PERKINS, } *Selectmen of West Bridgewater.*

A True Copy,—Attest:

ELI WHEELER, *Constable.*

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

Marriages recorded in West Bridgewater in the year 1869.

No.	Date of Marriage.	Names of Bridegrooms and Brides.
1	Jan. 27	Horace Bartlett and Abbie Howard.
2	Feb. 11	Ruel W. Dunbar and Mary A. Lothrop.
3	April 3	Warren Gould and Amy A. Pratt.
4	June 6	Cornelius Sullivan and Mary Murphy.
5	July 4	Frank W. Lufkin and Ella A. Hancock.
6	Aug. 29	William L. Woodworth and Adelia W. Dunbar.
7	Sept. 1	Lucius Gurney and Catherine L. Leach.
8	Sept. 30	Melvin L. Webber and Mary E. Newhall.
9	Oct. 31	Winslow F. Holmes and Huldah J. Leach.
10	Nov. 17	George E. Hayward and Susan A. Holmes.
11	Nov. 24	James A. Fobes and Harriet C. Durham.
12	Dec. 22	Eben C. Safford and Julia A. Millett.

The intention of marriage between the following persons has been recorded, but no certificate of their marriage has been returned to this town.

1	Aug. 12	George E. Bates and Frances Leonard.
2	Oct. 2	Charles Edgecomb and Catherine R. Curtis.

Deaths registered in West Bridgewater in the year 1869.

No.	Date of Death.	Names of the Deceased.	Age. Yrs.	Ms.	Ds.	Disease or Cause of Death.
1,	Jan. 6,	Patrick Frahar,	47			Consumption.
2,	" 20,	Susannah L. Savery,	64	8	7	Cancerous Humor.
3,	Feb. 9,	Jacob Talbot,	71	5	23	Consumption.
4,	" 23,	Seth Leonard,	59	7	8	Typhoid Fever.
5,	March 1,	Frank A. Washburn,		1	10	Erysipelas.
6,	" 14,	Elizabeth V. Richards,	38	3	24	Heart Disease.
7,	" 18,	Ira Morey,	86	1	12	Dropsy.
8,	" 21,	Clara E. Snell,	17	2	21	Scarlet Fever.
9,	April 2,	Caroline B. Alger,	44	1		Consumption.
10,	May 1,	Eliza C. Bacon.	17	2	4	Dropsy.
11,	" 8,	Hannah W. Hammond,	35	9	14	Puerperal Fever.
12,	June 20,	Annie Eddy,	2	6	21	Scalding.
13,	July 4,	Caroline R. Alger,	23	11	23	Consumption.
14,	" 26,	Otis Alger,	76		5	Heart Disease.
15,	Aug, 12,	William T. Perkins,	2	3	20	Cholera Infantum.
16,	" 27,	James P. Fay,		9	15	Cholera Infantum.
17,	" 28,	Herbert Washburn,			18	Cholera Infantum.
18,	" 29,	Margaret Dunn,	42			Cancer.
19,	Sept. 6,	Nancy Dewyre,	38			Dropsy.
20,	" 7,	Ida M. Jacobs,	1	3	17	Scalding.
21,	Oct. 2,	——— Richards,		7	5	Debility.
22,	" 17,	Jonathan Howard, 2d,	60	10	4	Bilious Fever.
23,	" 20,	Thomas Pratt,	74	10	27	Bright's Disease.
24,	Nov. 13,	Alice D. Richards,	2	5	5	Croup.
25,	" 16,	Amanda R. Tisdale,	41	7	13	Congestion of Lungs.
26,	" 17,	Hattie A. Soule,	6	2	6	Croup.

The number of births registered in said town in the year 1869 is 36.

AUSTIN PACKARD, Town Clerk.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

At the close of another school year it becomes our duty to present for your consideration the Annual Report of the general condition of our schools.

By the generous sum appropriated by the town the past year for school purposes, we have been able to retain or secure the services of many accomplished teachers, whose good influence will long be felt in our schools. We have been compelled to part with others who have been induced to take other and more lucrative situations elsewhere. Good teachers are always in demand and command good wages.

Each of the nine schools has continued in session, or will upon their close, thirty two weeks. Three of the schools have not yet closed on account of delay in procuring teachers. Three have continued each in charge of one teacher during the entire year. In others there have been a few changes, which, though not desirable, often have to be met with. But we are pleased to congratulate the town upon the general prosperity of its schools, in all of which there has been marked progress.

In a meeting of our body, held at the commencement of the past school year, the following sums were appropriated from the Town Appropriation for the support of teaching in the several schools:—To each of the Grammar Schools $50 per month, to each of the Primary Schools $28 per month, to the East School $36 per month in the Summer and Fall terms, and $44 per month in the Winter term, to all other schools $32 per month.

The cost of the several schools when all bills have been paid will be as follows:—

Cochesett School.

Wages of Grammar Teacher for thirty two weeks,	$412 50
" " Primary " " " " "	241 00
Fuel for both schools,	29 12
Incidentals,	17 95
	$690 57

Centre School, (*Grammar Department.*)

Wages of Teacher for thirty two weeks,	$378 00
Fuel,	39 62
Incidentals,	23 89
	$441 51

Centre School, (*Primary Department.*)

Wages of Teacher for thirty two weeks,	$241 00
Fuel,	20 12
Incidentals,	9 52
	$270 64

North School.

Wages of Teacher for thirty two weeks,	$256 00
Fuel,	26 70
Incidentals,	3 05
	$285 75

North Centre School.

Wages of Teacher for thirty two weeks,	$256 00
Fuel,	27 50
Incidentals,	6 00
	$289 50

South School.

Wages of Teacher for thirty two weeks,	$256 00
Fuel,	17 95
Incidentals,	5 78
	$279 73

East School.

Wages of Teacher for thirty two weeks,	$310 00
Fuel,	17 75
Incidentals,	11 20
	$338 95

Jerusalem School.

Wages of Teacher for thirty two weeks,	$256 00
Fuel,	3 75
Incidentals,	55
	$260 30

Paid to the School Committee of East Bridgewater for Beaver School,	$178 25
for charts and cards,	7 00
" land to enlarge the Cochesett lot,	43 00
Total cost of schools,	$3095 96
Town appropriation for the support of schools,	$3000 00
School Fund,	171 92
	$3171 92

The special appropriation of $300, voted by the town at the last Annual Meeting for the purpose of defraying the expenses of repairs and improvement of the School Property has been used as follows:—

CENTRE SCHOOLS.

For improving lot,	$2 00
" whitewashing fence,	15 00
" painting,	87 69
" posts,	$2 00
	$106 69
Cochesett School, for fencing,	124 95
North Centre " " "	65 00
North " for repairs,	10 63
South " " painting	25 00
Jerusalem " " repairs,	3 00
Total expense of repairs and improvement,	$335 27

The expense of our schools for the next school year will certainly be no less than it has been for the past. The pay of good teachers is constantly increasing and as we wish to place our schools in charge of the best of teachers we must offer them good wages as an inducement to remain.

Your Committee would recommend the town to raise three thousand dollars, the same amount as raised last year, for the support of schools the coming year, feeling confident that it is the least amount which is sufficient to meet their expenses.

They would also recommend the town to raise the sum of three hundred dollars, the same as raised last year, to defray the expense of necessary repairs and improvement of school property.

The Assessors report the number of persons in town the past year, between the ages of five and fifteen, to be 387. The number reported the preceding year was 435, and the cost *per capita* has been nearly $8.19,6, which is not far from the average of the amount appropriated in other towns for each scholar. This town was formerly far below the average in this respect, but by the enterprise and liberality of our citizens, the school appropriation has gradually increased year after year, and is now an amount which meets the necessities of the town and secures us better schools.

By the report of our Superintendent it appears that the number of scholars attending our schools the past year is somewhat less than the number returned by the Assessors. The loss in attendance may perhaps be accounted for when we consider the fact that many scholars who would wish to pursue the higher or high school branches are unable to do so here, and either do not attend school at all or attend high schools or academies in other towns. In our opinion a high school is necessary in our town at the present time as a means for the farther improvement and education of those who are now scholars.

During the past year there have been two changes in your Board of School Committee. In November 1869 a vacancy was occasioned by the resignation of Chas. M. Reed which was promptly filled by the appointment of Edward S. Hersey to the position until the next annual meeting in March 1870. At the same time our Superintendent, Cyrus Leonard, resigned that position on account of urgent business which required his constant attention, and the Committee in a special meeting elected Edward S. Hersey, one of their number, to that office. Mr. Leonard was appointed to the charge of the South School in place of Chas. M. Reed resigned.

Your Committee have endeavored to perform their duties faithfully and efficiently. Judging from the report of our Superintendent, our schools were never in a better condition than at the present time. The exceptions to the general prosperity of our schools which we are pleased to state are very limited, should only stimulate us to renewed exertion in securing teachers whose ability has been tried, or who have been thoroughly prepared for the great work of training the immortal mind.

CYRUS ALGER,
DAVIS COPELAND,
EDWARD S. HERSEY,
F. E. HOWARD,
CYRUS LEONARD,
BENJAMIN PERKINS,
ERLAND THAYER,

School Committee of West Bridgewater.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT,

FOR THE YEAR 1869–70.

Appointed at a late day by the School Committee to the position of Superintendent made vacant by the resignation of the former able and efficient incumbent of the office, Mr. Cyrus Leonard, I have not been able to visit our schools only during the winter term. In this time I have made frequent visitations to the different schools and have endeavored to the best of my ability to ascertain their true condition and observe their progress in the different branches. The notes I have taken, together with the information I have gained from Mr. Leonard of the condition of the schools during the Summer and Fall terms, I will present to our citizens in a report as succinct and complete as will do justice to all.

Length of the Schools.

Each of the nine schools has continued in session 10 weeks in each of the Summer and Fall terms, and all, with the exception of the Centre Grammar, South and East Schools have been in session 12 weeks during the winter, making a total of 32 weeks for each of these schools. The South School was closed for five weeks on account of the sickness of the teacher, but is now in session. The Centre Grammar and East Schools, not progressing during the winter term to the satisfaction of the Committee, were closed after being in session a few weeks, by the resignation of the teachers. They are now in session and progressing satisfactorily. The action of the local committee in both cases after mature deliberation, was prompt and decisive.

The Teachers.

During the past year our schools have generally been in charge of able and enthusiastic teachers who have served the public faithfully and efficiently, and I am pleased to congratulate the Committee in being so fortunate as to secure their services.

The Centre Grammar School remained in charge of Miss Josephine C. Austin, its former teacher, during the Summer and Fall terms. In the winter term the Committee secured the services of Mr. James A. Francis, a graduate of the Bridgewater State Normal School and a teacher of some experience, who resigned his position after remaining six and one half weeks. His place was filled by Mr. J. Martin Dill, a recent graduate of the same school.

The Centre Primary School has remained in charge of Miss Sarah W. Alden during the entire year.

The Cochesett Grammar School remained in charge of Mr. Artemus Wiswall, its former teacher, the entire year until about four weeks from the close of the winter term, when he resigned his position to take a more important and lucrative one in West Roxbury. The vacancy was supplied by Mr. Josiah S. Bassett, a recent graduate of the Bridgewater State Normal School.

The Cochesett Primary School has been taught the entire year by Miss Irene S. Wood, its former teacher.

The Jerusalem School has remained in charge of Miss Helen S. Dunbar for each of the three terms.

The South School was in charge of Miss Sybel Williams during the Summer and Fall terms. In the winter term her services were secured for the North School, and Miss Ella F. Churchill, a graduate of the Bridgewater State Normal School and a teacher of experience, filled the position.

The East School during the Summer and Fall terms, was taught by Miss Young, a graduate of the Normal School. In the winter term the services of Mr. Warner were secured, who resigned after having taught five weeks. After some necessary delay, the school was placed in charge of Miss Susan O. Thomas, of the Normal School, and is now in session.

The North School, was taught by Miss Hattie E. Brown, a teacher of experience, during the Summer term, and by Miss Elliot, a graduate of the Normal School, in the fall. In the winter term, it was in

charge of Miss Sybel Williams, who had taught for three terms in the South School.

The North Centre School, was taught by Miss Mary Lincoln in the Summer term, by Miss Clara L. Gray in the Fall, and by Miss Caroline Howard, a graduate of the Normal School, during the winter.

It will be observed, that most of the changes in teachers took place during the winter term. I would remark here that constant change is a disadvantage to both teacher and school, and it should be the aim of the Committee to secure permanent teachers, and of teachers to secure permanent situations, in order that the best interests of the school be secured.

The Scholars.

The number of scholars attending our schools during the Summer term was 335; during the Fall term 334; and in the Winter term 343. The number of scholars attending each school during each term can be ascertained by referring to the Table of Statistics; also the number of persons attending under five and over fifteen years of age.

There seems to be a growing tendency for parents to take their children, especially the boys, out of school before they are fully prepared for the great work of active life. The intelligence of the people is the greatest source of our power as a Nation; and it seems fitting that those who are to make and execute our laws in the future, should be thoroughly and judiciously educated, which can be done in some cases only in the early part of life. Too much time cannot be given them. The advantages secured by our Common Schools are worth a whole fortune, and should be carefully improved. In a country town like ours where the scholars are brought up under good influences, and are comparatively free from those vices incident to large villages and cities, we expect that our schools will be pleasant and agreeable; and I am pleased to state that in my visits to the different schools, I have found the large majority of the scholars willing and anxious to learn, intelligent, and deporting themselves commendably both in school and when out at recess engaged in their different plays. They require however, and I can say they have had, the constant care and attention of teachers without which the *best* of scholars would finally make the worst of schools.

The Discipline.

Although the Committee sanction the use of Corporal Punishment as a last resort in enforcing discipline, I am pleased to state, that cases of this kind have been very few, and that *good order* has been secured in most cases, by the firm yet pleasant manner of the teacher, and in a rigid adherence to the rules of the school, which have been few and necessary. In some cases of rank insubordination, the rod has been applied with good effect.

A respect for the teacher by the scholars, and a mutual good will between them, are necessary to every good school. A respect for the teacher should be cultivated, and *first* secured by the counsels and support of the parents and friends of the scholars, and the Committee, and also by the teacher, by showing all concerned that he understands his business. As a result, a mutual good will will spring up between them. In my opinion, the true cause of the two partial failures in our town the past winter, was that the teachers endeavored to gain the good will of the scholars before they did their respect, thus placing the effect before the cause. *First, cultivate* a *respect*, and pleasant feelings will follow; endeavor to gain their good will, at the outset, by giving them unnecessary liberties, and *they* will eventually become the masters of the school, and your anticipated success will become a failure.

All punishment is designed to affect the mind. In a very few cases, it can be affected only by causing bodily pain. In such cases, where there is rank disobedience, corporal punishment should certainly be used. Where scholars are so hardened that even this will not affect them, it is the best for the interest of the school, that they should be suspended.

Corporal punishment should be used judiciously. In some cases a gentle word of advice, spoken by a sympathetic teacher, will reach the heart of a refractory pupil, and prove to be the germ from which will spring high purposes and resolves, resulting in the building up of a noble character, to refine and elevate mankind, while perhaps blows applied hastily, would produce the opposite effect from that which was intended.

Attendance and Punctuality.

The average of attendance in the schools during the past year has been 278 or 81⅞ per cent., which is very good compared with the

towns around us. I have placed in the Table of Statistics, the average attendance of the scholars in each school during each term, the average per cent. of attendance in the same, the number of scholars perfect in attendance and punctuality, the number of tardy marks and the number of scholars not tardy, and I have also appended the names of those scholars in town, who have been neither absent or tardy, as a stimulus to better attendance, and an encouragement to those scholars whose names appear this year.

Attendance and punctuality are something over which the teacher has little control, and a criterion of his merit should not depend upon his record in the register. They have however a great deal to do with the prosperity of the school. If scholars are regular and prompt in attendance, it is evident that greater progress will be made than when they are absent a part of the time. Tardiness disturbs a school and forms a very bad habit, which will cling to the scholar through life. I would earnestly call the attention of the parents, to the great importance of these facts. I would also speak of another great hindrance to the prosperity of the school, and that is, frequent excuses. In this, a radical reform is needed. Frequently scholars are excused when they have been just long enough to answer the call of their name. They therefore, lose the benefit of all the lessons for the half day, and their record of attendance stands as well at the end of the term, as those who have borne the burden and heat of the day. This is a positive injustice to all concerned. Either the excuses should be considered in the attendance, or be used in very rare cases.

The Branches Taught.

In my visit to the different schools, I have carefully noticed the different methods of teaching the various branches. I have observed that although the methods have differed in many respects, still the general result has been the same, viz., thoroughness and commendable progress. In some of the schools there has been more thoroughness, than in others; this is accounted for perhaps by the more thorough preparation of the teacher. But in all cases the progress made entitles both teacher and pupils to much credit.

In order to cultivate the power of the voice, attention should be given to the careful training of the scholars in the different vocal ex-

ercises, in connection with the exercises in reading. It has been introduced in some of our schools, and with good success.

In many of our schools, the larger scholars write their words in spelling, which is far better than spelling them orally.

Guyot's Series of Geographies have been used with good success the past year, and have produced the best results; but in my opinion the highest book in the series prescribed by the School Committee, viz., Guyot's Intermediate Geography, is not sufficient for the wants of the most advanced scholars; and the introduction of Guyot's Common School Geography, would, I think, be a benefit to such, it being more full and comprehensive than the Intermediate.

General Remarks.

Every person needs a *practical* education. The old adage "Teach your children what they will practice when they become men," was no more true at the time it was uttered, than it is now, but in these latter days it is frequently overlooked. Too much attention is paid to the mere words of the books, while the ideas are lost sight of. Scholars should not be taught like parrots to commit words merely, but like reasoning beings, who are soon to go out into practical life. It is too often the case that scholars after completing their course at school, when asked to perform a common practical example, find it difficult to do so, simply for the reason that through some fault of the teacher or themselves the idea of the rule disappeared in a cloud of words. The idea should first be understood, and then expressed in fitting words. I am pleased to state that the teaching in our schools the past year has been practical, and that there is constant improvement in this respect.

The interest of the parents and friends in a school, is shown in some measure by the number of visits it receives. I would suggest the importance of more frequent visitations of our different schools. Parents should know of their children's progress and conduct in school, which can be ascertained in no better way than by visiting it, and seeing them engaged in their daily tasks. Scholars and teacher may be thus encouraged in their work, and as a result, the school may be improved.

EDWARD S. HERSEY, *Superintendent.*

NAMES OF PUNCTUAL SCHOLARS.

All scholars whose names are marked thus (*) have been punctual during the entire year.

COCHESETT SCHOOL, (*Grammar Department.*)

Summer.	Fall.	Winter.
*Alice L. Lothrop,	Alice L. Lothrop,	Alice L. Lothrop,
Julia A. Dewyer,	Fannie E. Lothrop,	Cora Alger,
Katie A. Rumery,	Alice Tisdale,	Freddie Perkins,
*Lizzie J. Tisdale,	Lizzie J. Tisdale,	Lizzie J. Tisdale,
*Sarah J. Alger,	Sarah J. Alger,	Sarah J. Alger,
Katie V. Shaw,	Katie V. Shaw,	William Lynch,
Fannie J. Rounds,	Addie Hancock,	Warren L. Jennings.
Henry F. Sullivan,	Fannie H. Wiswall,	
Percival H. Peckham,	Freddie Perkins,	
*Warren L. Jennings.	Warren L. Jennings,	
	William Lynch.	

COCHESETT SCHOOL, (*Primary Department.*)

Summer.	Fall.	Winter.
Grace Howard,	Emma F. Merritt,	Lizzie Sullivan,
*Mary A. Tisdale,	Mary A. Tisdale,	Mary A. Tisdale,
Lizzie Sullivan,	Ermind A. Perkins,	Ermind A. Perkins,
Lucia Alger,	Julia H. Lynch,	Julia H. Lynch,
Lura M. Alger,	Lura M. Alger,	Sarah F. Alger,
Augusta Dorgan,	Arthur H. Alger,	Louise Lothrop,
*Dora M. Tisdale,	Dora M. Tisdale,	Dora M. Tisdale,
Julia Hancock,	Nathan Vosmus,	Arthur H. Alger,
*Fannie F. Vosmus,	Fannie F. Vosmus,	Fannie F. Vosmus,
Julia A. Peckham,	Philip H. Crandon,	Frank Perkins,
Bertha Peckham,	George A. Vosmus,	John J. Bracenham,

Summer.	Fall.	Winter.
*Hattie M. Jennings,	Hattie M. Jennings,	Hattie M. Jennings,
*Arthur H. Alger,	May E. Jennings.	Johnnie W. Alger,
Arthur M. Morrison,		William Nixon,
Alton Peckham,		Willie C. Marshall,
George H. Peckham,		Carlton Lothrop,
Orin Perkins,		
Willie C. Marshall,		
Lewis A. Vining,		
George A. Vosmus.		

CENTRE SCHOOL, (*Grammar Department.*)

Summer.	Fall,	Winter to Mar. 1, '70.
Lizzie Dunbar,	Dora L. Dunbar,	Mary L. Perkins,
Mary Dunbar,	Marion H. Packard,	Mary E. Dunbar,
Mina Folsom,	David R. Reed.	Edward W. Baker.
Annie P. Howland,		
Marion H. Packard,		
Frank Howard,		
Eddie Dunbar.		

CENTRE SCHOOL, (*Primary Department.*)

Summer.	Fall.	Winter.
Carrie Dunbar,	Mabel Dunbar,	Mabel Dunbar,
*Laura Dunbar,	Laura Dunbar,	Laura Dunbar,
Jennie Howard,	Alice Packard.	Carrie Leonard,
Maggie Lean,		Edith Snell.
Julia Thornell,		
Maggie Thornell,		
Freddie Folsom,		
Thomas Thornell.		

NORTH SCHOOL.

Summer.	Fall.	Winter.
Annie Perkins,	Abbie Bacon,	Benj. E. Perkins,
John Perkins.	Eddie Keith,	Warren R. Keith,
	Warren Keith,	George Turner.
	Benj. E. Perkins.	

North Centre School.

Summer.	Fall.	Winter.
	Annie A. Copeland.	Miles Leavitt,
		Ernest L. Packard,

South School.

Summer.	Fall.	Winter.
	Andrew Buttomer,	Dennis Buttomer,
	Willie Donovan.	Andrew Buttomer.

East School.

Summer.	Fall.	Winter. (to Mar. 1, '70)
Ernest W. Thayer.	Josie Ryder.	Frank Horton.

Jerusalem School.

Summer.	Fall.	Winter.
Susie Hayward,	Fannie Linnehan,	Minnie Hartwell,
Mary Sullivan,	James Sullivan,	Katie Egan,
*Lizzie Egan,	Lizzie Egan,	Lizzie Egan,
*Rosanna Linnehan,	Rosanna Linnehan.	Rosanna Linnehan,
Hannah Linnehan,		Lizzie Langley.
Willie Egan,		
Wilton Copeland,		
Jonas Hartwell,		
James Sullivan.		

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

TEACHERS, &c.	Length in months.	Wages per month.	Number of scholars.	Average number of scholars.	Av. per cent. of scholars.	No. perfect in attendance.	No. of tardy marks.	No. of scholars not tardy.	Number over fifteen.	Number under five.
Centre School, (Gram. Dept.)										
Josephine C. Austin, Summer,	2 1-2	$40	27	23 1-4	86	7	24	18	6	0
" " " Fall,	2 1-2	40	26	21 3-4	83 2-3	3	34	13	7	0
James A. Francis, } Winter,	3	55	40	*						
J. Martin Dill, } Winter,		60								
Centre School, (Prim. Dept.)										
Sarah W. Alden, Summer,	2 1-2	28	32	24 1-2	77	8	8	27	0	1
" " " Fall,	2 1-2	30	31	23	74	3	35	17	0	0
" " " Winter,	3	32	31	25 11-12	83 1 2	4	84	16	0	0
Cochesett, (Gram. Dept.,)										
Artemas Wiswall, Summer,	2 1-2	50	45	39 1-4	87	10	40	31	11	0
" " Fall,	2 1-2	50	44	38	86 1-3	11	48	32	11	0
" " Winter.	3	50	49	46 2-3	95	7	118	26	13	0
Josiah G. Bassett, } Winter.		62 50								
Cochesett, (Prim. Dept.)										
Irene S. Wood, Summer.	2 1-2	28	49	44	90	20	23	42	0	0
" " " Fall,	2 1-2	30	56	47	84	13	24	43	0	0
" " " Winter,	3	32	57	50	88	16	18	52	0	0
North School.										
Hattie E. Brown, Summer,	2 1-2	32	25	21 1-4	85	2	56	10	0	0
Ella A. Elliott, Fall,	2 1-2	32	27	21 3-10	79	4	82	10	1	0
Sybel Williams, Winter,	3	32	23	18 2-5	80	3	30	14	1	0
North Centre School.										
Mary Lincoln, Summer.	2 1-2	32	27	21	78	0	49	5	0	0
Clara L. Gray, Fall,	2 1-2	32	27	23 1-2	87	1	36	6	0	1
Caroline Howard, Winter,	3	32	31	26 4 5	86 1-2	2	109	10	2	0
South School.										
Sybel Williams, Summer,	2 1-2	32	47	31 1-3	66 1-2	0	55	22	0	0
" " Fall,	2 1-2	32	38	27	71	2	127	8	0	2
Ella F. Churchill, Winter,	3	32	40	*						
Jerusalem School.										
Helen S. Dunbar, Summer,	2 1-2	32	33	27	82	11	10	28	1	0
" " " Fall,	2 1-2	32	35	26	74	4	62	22	1	0
" " " Winter.	3	32	31	25	80 2-3	5	18	23	1	2
East School.										
Cora I. Young, Summer,	2 1-2	32	38	30 7-10	80 3-4	1	77	16	3	2
" " " Fall,	2 1-2	32	48	37 4-10	78	1	139	16	4	3
F. H. Warner, } Winter,	3	51 20	41	*						
Susan O. Thomas, } Winter,										

*Not finished.

ANNUAL REPORTS

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OF THE TOWN OF

WEST BRIDGEWATER,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

MARCH 1, 1871.

NORTH BRIDGEWATER:
GAZETTE STEAM JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.
1871.

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1871.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The Selectmen of the town of West Bridgewater present the following report of receipts, expenditures, and financial condition of said town, for the year ending March 1, 1871.

Balance in the hands of the Treasurer March 1, 1870,	$5,502 83
Cash on P. S. Harden's note,	700 00
Individual subscription for Centre School District,	18 75
Cash on A. Copeland's note,	73 15
from Massachusetts school fund,	208 18
from the State, for aid to families of volunteers, &c.,	828 80
" Corporation tax for 1870,	297 41
balance of Corporation tax for 1869,	16 56
percentage on 1869 taxes paid after Jan. 1, 1870,	112 12
on tax bills for 1870,	13,355 03
from the dividend under the dog law,	146 37
" borrowed money,	1,500 00
	$22,759 20

EXPENDITURES.

Paid County tax,	$1,281 39
State tax,	2,550 00
note and interest to C. H. Colwell,	106 50
" " B. Packard,	313 50
" " Howard & Washburn,	1,511 02
" " F. E. Howard,	85 24
for repairing roads and bridges,	2,090 14
" gravel,	41 88
" support of schools,	3,954 54
" repair of school houses,	356 41
aid to soldiers and their families,	960 00
support of the poor at the almshouse,	210 00
" " " out of the "	233 84
" Eugene A. Moore at State school ship,	26 00
" public lectures,	100 00
balance of appropriation for swamp road,	139 16
for use of the Town Hall,	75 00
" printing reports, blanks, posters, &c.,	84 50
" exchange of school books in 1869,	44 70
" school books,	4 21
" blank books, stationery and postage,	9 99
to town officers,	490 43
for use of team, and car fare,	24 95
" expenses of a hearing before road committee,	5 75
" going with the hearse, and tolling bell,	46 00
interest on two notes,	78 00
discount on taxes for 1870,	801 30
as abatement on taxes,	76 33
	$15,700 78

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

Outstanding notes, with interest,	$8,610 00
The appropriation for new roads,	1,000 00
Of the appropriation for schools,	523 27
Balance due the highway districts,	614 38
	$10,747 65

ASSETS.

Balance in the Treasury March 1, 1871,	$7,058 42
Due from State, aid to soldiers and their families, 1869,	21 20
" " " " " " 1870,	960 00
" " " " " " 1871,	52 00
" Malden for expense of Hammond child,	16 00
" Stoughton for expenses of Jacob Talbot,	14 00
" Harwich for expenses of Eugene A. Moore, at the State Nautical school,	29 70
Balance against, or real indebtedness of the town,	2,596 33
	$10,747 65

For repairs of highways there has been drawn out of the Treasury,	$2,090 14
The town appropriated for that use	2,000 00
Exceeded the appropriation,	$90 14

Each district's account with the town treasury now stands as follows, viz.:

District No 1. FRANCIS PERKINS, Surveyor.

Balance due the district March 1, 1870,	$43 39
Appropriation for 1870,	450 00
Amount,	$493 39
Drawn from the treasury,	436 80
Balance due the district March 1, 1871,	$56 59

District No. 2. A. N. PECKHAM, Surveyor.

Balance due the district March 1, 1870,	$78 40
Appropriation of 1870,	270 00
Amount,	$348 40
Drawn from the treasury,	169 01
Balance due March 1, 1871,	$179 39

District No. 3. C. C. THAYER, Surveyor.

Balance due the district March 1, 1870,	$107 58
Appropriation of 1870,	358 00
Amount,	$465 58
Drawn from the treasury,	350 44
Balance due March 1, 1871,	$115 14

District No. 4. HEMAN COPELAND, Surveyor.

Balance due the district March 1, 1870,	$48 85
Appropriation of 1870,	235 00
Amount,	$283 85
Drawn from the treasury,	206 25
Balance due March 1, 1871,	$77 60

District No. 5. Eli Wheeler, Surveyor.

Balance due the district March 1, 1870,	$227 80
Appropriation of 1870,	150 00
Amount,	$377 80
Drawn from the treasury,	360 30
Balance due March 1, 1871,	$17 50

District No. 6. George H. Perkins, Surveyor.

Balance due the district March 1, 1870,	$128 56
Appropriation of 1870,	297 00
Amount,	$425 55
Drawn from the treasury,	344 64
Balance due the district March 1, 1871,	$80 91

District No. 7. J. Q. Hartwell, Surveyor.

Balance due the district March 1, 1870,	$69 95
Appropriation of 1870,	240 00
Amount,	$309 95
Drawn from the treasury,	222 70
Balance due the district March 1, 1871,	$87 25

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid F. E. Howard, selectman, &c.,	$48 70
Charles Perkins, "	12 00
Nahum Leonard, Jr., "	2 00
James Howard, "	122 50
George D. Ryder, "	70 00
Austin Packard, town clerk,	23 08
E. W. Hersey, superintendent of schools,	45 00
Eli Wheeler, constable,	7 75
B. Dunham, road committee,	2 00
Caleb Howard, "	4 40
George M. Pratt, treasurer,	150 00
James Howard, road committee,	1 00
H. H. Whitman, auditor,	1 00
H. W. Leach, "	1 00
	$490 43

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Paid S. L. Pratt, for going with the hearse,	$42 50
for use of Town Hall,	75 00
" exchange of school books in 1869,	44 70
" printing town reports and posters,	75 00
" " blanks for the treasurer,	9 00
constable fees, " "	50
for blank books, stationery and postage,	9 99
" use of team, and car fare,	24 95
expenses of hearing by the road committee,	5 75
Caleb Howard, for tolling bell,	3 50
discount on taxes of 1870,	801 30
three notes and interest,	594 26
for school books,	4 21
abatement on taxes of 1869 and 1870,	76 33
	$1,766 99

SCHOOLS.

Balance in the treasury March 1, 1870,	$1,250 88
Appropriation for 1870 by the town,	3,000 00
Received from the State school fund,	208 18
Total,	$4,459 06
Amount drawn from the treasury	3,954 54
Balance of school money March 1, 1871,	$504 52
To which should be added a subscription of	18 75
Making	$523 27

SCHOOL HOUSE REPAIRS.

Expended for repairs,	$356 41
The town appropriated for that use,	300 00
Exceeded the appropriation,	$56 41

RECAPITULATION OF EXPENSES.

County and State taxes,	$3,831 39
Gravel and work, repairing roads,	2,271 18
Support of schools,	3,954 54
School house repairs,	356 41
Support of poor in and out of almshouse,	469 84
Town officers,	490 43
State aid,	960 00
Public lectures,	100 00
Incidentals,	1,766 99
Paying a temporary loan,	1,500 00
	$15,700 78

FOR THE POOR OUT OF THE ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for Timothy W. Fisher and family,	$34 00
Horatio Shaw, at Taunton Lunatic Asylum,	148 20
Abigail Fadden and family, at Randolph,	33 64
Sarah A. Pike, at North Bridgewater,	6 00
Mrs. Abigail Snell, at East Bridgewater,	12 00
Eugene A. Moore, who is supposed to belong to Harwich, at State Nautical school,	26 00
	$259 84

ALMSHOUSE ACCOUNT.

Cr.

By paid for flour, 7¼ bbls.,	$62 33
grain,	215 40
crackers,	5 75
groceries,	108 28
apples,	11 65
beef creature,	43 00
meat and fish,	43 17
live stock,	164 50
work on farm,	86 53
smith work,	25 00
fertilizers,	34 96
law bill,	4 50
furniture and farming tools,	27 08
clothing and bedding,	56 89
medical attendance and medicine,	7 59
tobacco,	1 94
soap,	9 40
garden and hay seeds,	11 21
salt,	4 82
kerosene oil,	2 93
one month's salary to warden,	20 83
Cash in warden's hands March 1, 1871.	54 17
	$1,001 93

Dr.

By cash in the hands of warden, March 1, 1870,	$62 00
for butter,	123 48
poultry and eggs,	42 31
hay and straw,	127 76
potatoes and turnips,	44 43
rye,	3 00
neat stock,	282 50
pigs,	51 50
calves,	23 96
beef and pork,	47 30
a hide,	4 13
milk,	8 25
lumber,	1 00
labor off the farm,	160 78
miscellaneous articles,	19 53
	$1,001 93

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AT THE ALMSHOUSE AS APPRAISED MARCH 1, 1871.

5½ tons English hay,	$165 00
3 " meadow "	42 00
2 oxen,	180 00
5 cows,	250 00
2 yearlings,	40 00
1 horse,	100 00
1 wagon and harness,	44 00
5 bushels of corn and 5½ of meal,	11 50

8 bushels rye,	$10 00
3 " shorts,	1 70
55 " potatoes,	55 00
3 " turnips,	3 00
3 swine,	45 00
24 fowls,	24 00
1500 feet of boards,	30 00
¾ M. shingles,	2 25
133 lbs. of ham and shoulders,	22 17
275 lbs. of salt beef,	33 37
250 lbs. of salt pork,	45 00
36 lbs. of lard,	7 20
7 lbs. of tallow,	70
5 dozen of eggs,	1 60
17 lbs of candles,	1 87
7 lbs. of sausages,	1 26
33 lbs. of butter,	16 50
7½ lbs. of dried apples,	1 00
7 pecks of beans,	5 25
Flour, groceries, &c.,	10 00
Soap and ashes,	7 50
1 hay cart and 1 wood cart,	10 00
2 ox carts and 1 pair of wheels,	75 00
1 sled, drag and wheelbarrow,	13 00
100 loads of manure,	100 00
Farming tools,	60 00
Beds and bedding,	90 00
Stoves,	35 00
Wares,	25 00
Other furniture,	25 00
	$1,589 87
The inventory March 1, 1870, appears to be	1,856 29
Or the appraisal of 1870 exceeds that of 1871 by	$266 42

We can find no difference in amount of property except, perhaps, about $50 worth of hay.

To this difference of amount of property on hand, viz.,	$50 00
Add the nine months' salary drawn from the treasury,	210 00
And the two months' salary now due,	46 66
And the difference of cash in hands of warden,	7 83
We have the sum of	$317 49

as the cost of the paupers at the almshouse above the produce of the farm for the year ending March 1, 1871, which sum divided by 242, the total number of weeks of all the paupers, gives the cost per week, $1.31.

If we add to the above cost of	$317 49
The interest on the estate at $4,500, (a large appraisal,)	270 00
We have, as the cost of the house for the year,	$587 49

or $2.42 per week for an average of 4 17-26 persons for the year.

With the facilities which have been afforded at the almshouse, during the last three or four years, for doing outside work in the winter with the team, the almshouse establishment ought, with industrious, frugal and judicious management in doors and out, to support itself, make improvements and pay a larger salary, without drawing on the treasury for one dollar. But we do not succeed in obtaining such managers for that place.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES HOWARD,
GEORGE D. RYDER,
SAMUEL H. HOWARD,
Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor of West Bridgewater.

March 1, 1871.

LIST OF JURORS.

A list of names of persons selected for Jurors, to be presented to the town at the annual meeting, March 20th.

Albert L. Alger,
Cyrus Alger,
Horace Bartlett,
Charles W. Bacon,
Heman Copeland,
Caleb Copeland, Jr.,
Albert Copeland,
Charles E. Churchill,
Lucius Dunbar,
Curtis Eddy,
Perez P. Field,
Jason M. French,
Lucius Hayward,
Josiah Q. Hartwell,
Friend W. Howard,
Leavitt T. Howard,
John B. Holmes,
Samuel H. Howard,
Stillman W. Hersey,
William H. Jennings,
Henry S. Keith,
Elihu Leonard,
Cyrus Leonard,
Jacob Leonard,
Charles A. Macomber, Jr.,
George M. Pratt,
Charles Perkins,
Nahum P. Snell,
Erland Thayer,
Abiel Washburn.

The Selectmen recommend that Guide Boards be maintained at or near the following named places:

Joshua T. Ryder's,
Justin W. Richards',
Joseph Kingman's,
Lewis Ryder's,
Pine Hill Cemetery,
Charles Howard, 2d's,
West of Almshouse,
Edmund Geary's,
Pardon Copeland's,
North Centre school house,
Heman Copeland's,
Nahum Leonard's,
John Walker's,
Molbry Ripley's,
James Alger's furnace,
Joseph Alger's,
Barnabas Dunbar's,
Stillman W. Hersey's,
Dwelley Fobes',
Benjamin Howard's.
George Wilbar's,
John B. Holmes',
Centre Post Office,
Thomas Mackin's.

TOWN MEETING.

The annual Town Meeting will be on Monday, the 20th of March, at 12½ o'clock, P. M., to act upon the following articles:

1st. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

2d. To hear and act upon the several reports of officers and committees of the town.

3d. To act on the list of Jurors reported by the Selectmen.

4th. To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year.

5th. (By request.) To see if the Town will direct the Selectmen to draw an order on the Town Treasurer to pay Barnabas Dunbar for building the road and bridge from Everett Howard's to Elam Howard's, precisely according to the contract that the committee chosen by the town made with him.

6th. To determine the manner of repairing Highways and Bridges the ensuing year.

7th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the town the ensuing year, and make appropriation of the same.

8th. To consider a proposition made by Otis Drury, and see if the Town will establish a High School.

9th. To see what action the Town will take in regard to roads which have been laid out within the limits thereof.

10th. To see if the Town will direct the School Committee to appoint a superintendent of the schools therein.

11th. To see if the Town will appropriate a sum, not exceeding one hundred and fifty dollars, to defray, in part, the expenses of a course of lectures.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

Marriages recorded in West Bridgewater in the year 1870.

No.	Date.		Names of Bridegrooms and Brides.
1	Jan.	5	Charles E. Dunbar and Mary H. Alger.
2	Feb.	16	Herbert A. Millett and Affie G. Holley.
3	April	10	Edwin F. Lawrence and Mary E. Lawrence.
4	"	23	Hiram E. Weston and Mary F. Caldwell.
5	July	3	Edmund L. Alger and Sarah Swift.
6	Oct.	22	Willard Howard and Sarah M. Safford.
7	Nov.	6.	William L. Hayward and Lilla A. Habberley.
8	"	25	Charles A. Dunbar and Adella L. Brown.
9	"	27	Walter C. Ripley and Isadora Ryder.
10	"	29	James S. Jones and Abbie B. Alger.
11	Dec.	6	Edward Tisdale and Abby H. Palmer.
12	"	11	Jarius S. Eaton and Sarah A. Mason.
13	"	22	Loren A. Flagg and Loraine Alger.

Notice of the intention of marriage between the following persons has been recorded, but no certificate of a marriage between any of them has been returned to this town.

1	Jan.	14	Michael Dwyer and Mary Kenny.
2	Oct.	1	Lucius S. Packard and Helen E. Ripley.
3	Nov.	4	Justin W. Richards and Mary A. Copeland.
4	"	5	Peter Elman and Helen Courtney.
5	"	22	George B. Howard and Elizabeth Martin.
6	Dec.	13	William F. Ryder and Ellen W. Glass.

Deaths registered in West Bridgewater in the year 1870.

No.	Date.		Names.	Ys.	Ms.	Ds.	Cause of Death.
1	Jan.	3	Uriel Howard,	88	0	5	Pneumonia.
2		8	Julia A. Boardman,	45	2	27	Dropsy.
3	Feb.	3	Jane Alger,	60	2	5	Heart Disease.
4		11	Mabel E. Packard,	10	2	22	Rheumatic Fever.
5		15	Margarette Richards,	47	11	23	Consumption.
6		24	Daniel R. Washburn,			24	Erysipelas.
7	March	28	Herbert Lothrop,	20	11	28	Consumption.
8	April	14	Betsey Fisher,	52	1	6	Cancerous Humor.
9	May	19	Ida M. Colwell,	4		21	Dropsy.
10		24	Calvin Williams,	66	4	9	Consumption.
11	Sept.	10	Daniel Dunbar,	85	5		Heart Disease.
12		14	Jonathan Copeland,	83	1	4	Old Age.
13	Oct.	25	Elizabeth K. Stanley,	16		3	Scarlet Fever.
14		27	Molbry Ripley,	77	2	9	Dropsy.
15	Nov.	14	——— Ames,			9	Infantile Debility.
16		19	——— Millett,			2	" "
17		21	Ellen M. Perkins,	27	7	30	Lung Disease.
18	Dec.	2	Davis Keith,	75	2	26	Consumption.
19		17	Frank P. Pittsley,	1	4		Croup.
20	Jan.	31	Lucy Kingman, died in Salem,	30	10	17	Consumption.
21	May	11	Abigail Snell, died in E. Bridgew'r,	89	7	9	Old Age.

The number of births registered in said town in the year 1870 is 34.

AUSTIN PACKARD, Town Clerk.

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1872.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The Selectmen of the town of West Bridgewater, present the following report of receipts, expenditures, and the financial condition of said town, for the year ending March 1, 1872.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in the hands of the Treasurer, March 1, 1871,	$7,082 42
Tax bills for 1871,	12,384 73
Additional taxes,	4 00
Cash received, the insurance dividend of school house,	9 60
from the State, for aid to families of volunteers, &c.,	960 00
" corporation tax for 1871,	361 61
" National Bank tax for 1871,	788 47
" Massachusetts School Fund,	175 43
" the dividend under the dog law,	153 99
balance on the sale of the Beaver school house,	228 57
Per centage on taxes of 1870, paid after Jan. 1, '71,	112 41
	$22,261 23

EXPENDITURES.

Paid County tax,	$1,281 39
State tax,	2,550 00
Notes and interest,	4,001 57
for support of schools,	2,661 31
" repairing school house property,	106 31
" repairing roads and bridges,	1,478 66
" gravel,	40 04
aid to soldiers and their families,	792 00
for support of the poor at the almshouse,	387 56
" " " out of the almshouse,	206 89
" public lectures,	100 00
" use of Town Hall,	75 00
" renewing guide boards,	24 42
towards Jerusalem road,	450 00
for damage to carriage from defect in road,	8 00
" expenses in case of B. Dunbar against town,	57 30
" " pauper case,	2 00
" " selling and deeding property for taxes,	10 58
" printing,	61 00
" copying a valuation for tax commissioner,	6 40
" school books,	6 92
" going with hearse and tolling bell,	90 00
town officers,	484 79
for postage, express and stationery,	5 52
" travelling expenses,	8 45
" abatements of taxes,	86 27
B. Dunbar for building new road,	700 00
office rent,	15 00
six per cent. reduction on tax bills for 1871,	743 32
	$16,440 70

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

Outstanding notes with interest,	$4,920 00
Balance of appropriation for new roads,	1,350 00
of the appropriation for schools,	1,323 85
of the appropriation for repairing highways,	533 72
of the appropriation for repairing school property,	137 28
	$8,264 85

ASSETS.

Balance in the treasury, March 1, 1872,	$5,820 53
Due from State, aid to soldiers and their families,	846 00
Balance against the town,	1,598 32
	$8,264 85

For repairing highways the town appropriated,	$1,500 00
There has been drawn for that purpose,	1,478 66
Balance,	$21 34

Each district's account with the town treasury now stands as follows, viz:

District No. 1, Francis Perkins, Surveyor.

Balance due the district March 1, 1871,	$56 59
Appropriation for 1871,	330 00
Amount,	$386 59
Drawn from the treasury,	262 62
Balance due March 1, 1872,	$123 97

District No. 2, R. W. Morse, Surveyor.

Balance due the district March 1, 1871,	$179 39
Appropriation for 1871,	180 00
Amount,	$359 39
Drawn from the treasury,	289 51
Balance due March 1, 1872,	$69 88

District No. 3, J. E. Ryder, Surveyor.

Balance due the district March 1, 1871,	$115 14
Appropriation for 1871,	265 00
Amount,	$380 14
Drawn from the treasury,	334 86
Balance due March 1, 1872,	$45 28

District No. 4, Leavitt T. Howard, Surveyor.

Balance due the district March 1, 1871,	$77 60
Appropriation for 1871,	180 00
Amount,	$257 60

Amount brought forward,	$257 60
Drawn from the treasury,	142 58
Balance due March 1, 1872,	$115 02

District No. 5, Eli Wheeler, Surveyor.

Balance due the district March 1, 1871,	$17 50
Appropriation for 1871,	150 00
Amount,	$165 50
Drawn from the treasury,	90 37
Balance due March 1, 1872,	$75 13

District No. 6, Ansel Alger, Surveyor.

Balance due the district, March 1, 1871,	$80 91
Appropriation for 1871,	215 00
Amount,	$295 91
Drawn from the treasury,	180 88
Balance due March 1, 1872.	$115 03

District No. 7, J. Q. Hartwell, Surveyor.

Balance due the district March 1, 1871,	$87 25
Appropriation for 1871,	180 00
Amount,	$267 25
Drawn from the treasury,	177 84
Balance due March 1, 1872,	$89 41

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Austin Packard, town clerk,	$25 79
Geo. D. Ryder, Selectman, &c.,	7 00
James Howard, " "	138 00
Davis Copeland, " "	28 00
Samuel H. Howard, " "	13 00
Mary A. Thayer, school committee,	79 00
Edward S. Hersey, " "	10 00
Geo. M. Pratt, collector and treasurer,	150 00
James Copeland, road committee,	11 00
Foster J. Vosmus, " "	5 10
Henry W. Leach, " "	4 00
Joseph Kingman, " "	3 00
Caleb Howard, " "	1 40
Pardon Copeland, auditing committee,	2 00
H. H. Whitman, " "	1 00
Wm. O. Alger, " "	3 50
Bradford Copeland, " "	1 00
H. L. Washburn, " "	1 00
Caleb Copeland, Jr., " "	1 00
	$484 79

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Paid for use of Town Hall,	$75 00
" printing reports and posters,	61 00
" school books,	6 92
" blank books, stationery, &c.,	5 52
" care of, and going with hearse,	75 00

Paid for tolling bell,	$15 00
" travelling expenses,	8 45
" office rent,	15 00
" copying a valuation book,	6 40
" expenses of selling and deeding land taken for taxes,	10 58
" expenses in case of Dunbar against the town,	57 30
" " of pauper case,	2 00
" renewing guide boards,	24 42
" damage from defect in road,	8 00
abatement on taxes,	86 27
discount on tax bills for 1870,	743 32
	$1,200 18

SCHOOLS.

Balance in the treasury March 1, 1871,	$523 27
Appropriation for 1871 by the town,	3,000 00
Received from the State school fund,	175 43
Two years' dividends under the dog law,	286 46
	$3,985 16
Drawn for support of schools,	2,661 31
Balance of school money March 1, 1872,	$1,323 85
When the winter schools all close, there will be drawn about,	700 00
Leaving in the treasury for schools, only about,	$623 85

SCHOOL HOUSE REPAIRS.

The town appropriated,		$300 00
Drawn from the treasury for that purpose,	$106 31	
Overdrawn the previous year,	56 41	
		162 72
Balance of appropriation not drawn,		$137 28

RECAPITULATION OF EXPENSES.

County and State taxes,	$3,831 39
Gravel and work, repairing roads,	1,518 70
New roads,	1,150 00
Support of schools,	2,661 31
School house repairs,	106 31
Support of the poor in and out of the almshouse,	594 45
State aid,	792 00
Public lectures,	100 00
Town officers,	484 79
Incidentals,	1,200 18
	$12,439 13

POOR OUT OF THE ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for Michael Ryan at Taunton Lunatic Asylum,	$172 70
" Ellen Murphy,	34 19
	$206 89

ALMSHOUSE ACCOUNT.

Cr.

Paid for flour and grain,	$216 50
" groceries and small articles,	77 70
" meat and fish,	47 77
" sweet potatoes and apples,	9 01
" clothing,	58 42
" coffin, &c.,	11 00
" doctor's bill,	2 00
" school books,	2 87
" tools,	26 91
" repairs,	18 19
" fertilizers,	11 84
" seeds,	2 30
" smith work,	20 60
" other work,	18 85
" pasturing and difference paid in trading stock,	19 29
" damage done by cattle in 1870,	1 97
salary of Warden, one year to Jan. 1, 1872,	277 00
cash in Warden's hands, March 1, 1872,	5 63
	$827 85

Dr.

By cash in the hands of Warden March 1, 1871,	$54 17
Received for butter, cheese and milk,	53 46
" poultry and eggs,	106 44
" potatoes,	29 36
" calves,	65 80
" lard and candles,	16 81

Received for board	$3 75
" lumber, &c.,	4 88
" work off the farm,	114 12
from town treasury,	379 06
	$827 85

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AT THE ALMSHOUSE AS APPRAISED MARCH 1, 1872.

8 tons of English hay,	$288 00
3½ tons of meadow hay,	63 00
2 oxen,	175 00
4 cows,	200 00
1 two years old heifer,	30 00
1 bull,	30 00
1 horse,	50 00
2 swine,	20 00
17 fowls,	17 00
1 wagon and harness,	25 00
1000 feet of lumber,	20 00
¾ M. shingles,	2 25
3 bushels of rye,	3 00
3 bushels of corn and meal,	2 50
4½ " beans,	13 50
230 " potatoes,	142 60
30 " turnips,	10 00
250 lbs. of salt pork,	30 00
158 " hams and shoulders,	19 75
Amount added,	$1,141 60

Amount brought forward,	$1,141 60
42 lbs. of dried beef,	8 40
111 " butter,	38 85
165 " cheese,	27 50
82 " lard,	12 30
7 " candles,	1 05
Flour and groceries,	12 00
Soap and ashes,	3 00
Beds and bedding,	110 00
Other furniture,	102 00
Carts, wheels and farming tools,	145 00
100 loads of manure,	100 00
	$1,701 70
Take from this the inventory of 1871,	1,589 87
Shows an increase of	$111 83

If we take from the sum drawn from the Treasury for the house, $379 06

This excess of inventory over that of last year,	111 83
We have as the cost of the house,	$267 23
To which if we add the interest on the property,	270 00
Makes the total cost to be,	$537 23

Which is $2.78 per week for 193 weeks or an average of 3 37-52 inmates for the year.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES HOWARD,
SAMUEL H. HOWARD,
DAVIS COPELAND,
Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor of West Bridgewater.

March 1, 1872.

LIST OF JURORS.

A list of names of persons selected for Jurors, to be presented to the town at the annual meeting, March 18th.

Cyrus Alger,
Horace Bartlett,
Charles W. Bacon,
Heman Copeland,
Caleb Copeland, Jr.,
Albert Copeland,
Bradford Copeland,
Charles E Churchill,
Lucius Dunbar,
Curtis Eddy,
Perez P. Field,
Jason M. French,
Lucius Hayward,
Francis E. Howard,
William H. Howard,
John B. Holmes,
Samuel H. Howard,
Stillman W. Hersey,
Elihu Leonard,
Cyrus Leonard,
Jacob Leonard,
Bradford Packard,
George M. Pratt,
Charles Perkins,
Nahum P. Snell,
Thomas Snell,
Ebenezer Taylor,
Erland Thayer,
Abiel Washburn.

The Selectmen recommend that Guide Boards be maintained at or near the following named places:

Joshua T. Ryder's,
Justin W. Richards',
Joseph Kingman's,
Lewis Ryder's,
Pine Hill Cemetery,
Charles Howard's,
West of Almshouse,
Edmund Geary's,
Pardon Copeland's,
North Centre school house,
Heman Copeland's,
Nahum Leonard's, 2,
J. Q. Hartwell's,
John Walker's, 2,
Molbry Ripley's,
James Alger's furnace,
Cyrus P. Brown's,
Joseph Alger's,
Barnabas Dunbar's,
Stillman W. Hersey's,
Dwelley Fobes',
Benjamin Howard's,
George Wilbar's,
John B. Holmes',
D. H. Baker's Store,
Centre Post Office,
Thomas Mackin's.

TOWN MEETING.

The annual Town Meeting will be on Monday, the 18th of March, at one o'clock, P. M., to act upon the following articles:

1st. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

2d. To hear and act upon the several reports of officers and committees of the town.

3d. To act on the list of Jurors reported by the Selectmen.

4th. To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year.

5th. (By request.) To see if the Town will sell, rent or otherwise dispose of their Almshouse property.

6th. To determine the manner of repairing Highways and Bridges the ensuing year.

7th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the town the ensuing year, and make appropriation of the same.

8th. To see if the town will remit the tax of 1871 which was assessed on property which was destroyed by fire last summer, owned by Cyrus Alger.

9th. To see what action the Town will take in regard to roads which have been laid out within the limits thereof.

10th. To see if the Town will direct the School Committee to appoint a superintendent of the schools therein.

11th. To see if the Town will appropriate a sum, not exceeding one hundred and fifty dollars, to defray, in part, the expenses of a course of lectures.

12th. To see if the Town will appropriate the dividend accruing under the execution of the dog law, for the support of schools.

13th. To see if the Town will relieve the heirs of the late Ephraim Copeland of Leicester, from paying the legacy bequeathed to this town by said Copeland for the support of a school, which legacy is now due.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

Marriages recorded in West Bridgewater in the year 1871.

No.	Date.		Names of Bridegrooms and Brides.
1	January	1	Herbert Estes and Harriet M. Howard.
2	"	24	Frank M. Hayward and Ida J. White.
3	"	26	Warren C. Kinney and Harriet Copeland.
4	February	2	Nathaniel W. Dunbar and Olive B. Howard.
5	April	3	Justin F. Kingman and Angeline W. French.
6	May	24	Sylvester Rice and Anna Rounds.
7	June	3	Frank B. Johnson and Helen E. Hayward.
8	"	11	James Vosmus and Ella H. Caldwell.
9	"	15	James P. Lincoln and Elizabeth J. Dunlap.
10	"	18	Elbridge E. Miller and Sarah E. Caldwell.
11	August	2	Edward S. Hersey and Mary P. Brewster.
12	Sept.	14	Galen K. Richards and Angenette Snell.
13	"	21	Edmund Perkins and Sarah J. Jenness.
14	"	27	Arad Wilbar and Lizzie Washburn.
15	October	2	Cyrus L. Williams and Emily F. Gallagher.
16	"	8	Horatio Tinkham and Mary F. Linsey.
17	"	14	George A. Morrissey and Catharine Morgan.
18	"	16	James S. Allen and Alice Richards.
19	Novemb'r	2	Zeno Benson and Sybil Edson.
20	"	30	Amos W. Phillips and Harriet A. Worcester.
21	"	30	Walter P. Lothrop and Hattie A Bailey.
22	Decemb'r	24	Henry K. Harlow and Lydia A. Ryder.

Notice of the intention of marriage between the following persons has been recorded, but no certificate of the marriage of any of them has been returned to this town.

1	January	27	John Garvey and Mariah Scanlan.
2	June	9	John Linehan and Hannah Ring.
3	August	11	George Weiss and Nancy Coach.
4	"	18	John Hennesey and Ellen Baker.
5	October	2	Edward Welch and Honora Conley.
6	Novemb'r	13	Fred Hartwell and Mary E. Hayward.
7	Dec.	3	Lawrence Andrews and Ellen Geary, Jr.

Deaths registered in West Bridgewater in the year 1871.

No.	Date.	Names of the Deceased.	Yrs.	Ms.	Ds.	Cause of Death.
1	January 6	Alice C. Howard,	20	10	2	Consumption.
2	" 7	Fanny E. Lothrop,	17	2	7	"
3	" 14	Abby G. Capen,	77	1	11	Erysipelas.
4	" 16	Fannie E. Macomber,	40	2	9	Consumption.
5	" 17	Grace H. Bartlett,	1	11	4	Catarrh.
6	" 25	Frank Dunbar,	12	2	10	Scarlet Fever.
7	Feb'y 6	Annie W. Bartlett,		8	27	Consumption.
8	" 13	Cynthia A. Vosmus,	36	6	19	"
9	" 25	William H. Reed,	19	5	27	"
10	March 26	Edmund Fraher,	72			"
11	April 2	Julia Ryder,	35	2	22	"
12	" 22	Granville J. Talbot,	6	7	20	Scarlet Fever.
13	May 3	Dora L. Dunbar,	15	1	24	Consumption.
14	" 6	Robert Madden,			3	Infantile Debility.
15	June 1	Estella F. Caldwell,	4	4	2	Remittent Fever.
16	" 3	Cephas Pasco,	67	1		Heart Disease.
17	" 19	Jeremiah Kelley,	70	10		Consumption.
18	July 17	Alanson S. Edson,	57	8	4	"
19	August 4	Polly Kingman,	77	3		Paralysis.
20	" 19	Lydia H. Birch,	73	8	2	"
21	Sept. 4	George F. Leonard,	1	4	3	Dysentery.
22	" 10	Helen Elman,	31			Childbirth.
23	" 24	Elizabeth E. Dyer,	16		2	Typhoid Fever.
24	" 30	Cornelius Lynch,	21	8	15	Heart Disease.
25	October 2	Lydia C. Wheeler,	80	8	9	Paralysis.
26	" 5	Lillian B. Hayward,		8		Dysentery.
27	" 20	Anna C. Hewens,	74	8	10	Paralysis.
28	Nov. 4	Fanny Wills,	55	11	20	Liver Disease.
29	" 11	Davis Alger,	64	2	9	Heart Disease.
30	" 25	Arthur H. Horton,		8	5	Consumption.
31	Dec. 4	William K. Alger,	21	4	17	"
32	" 15	Francelia A. Snell,	26	2		Hernia.
33	" 27	David Howard,	64	6	8	Paralysis.

The number of births registered in said town in the year 1871, is 25.

AUSTIN PACKARD, Town Clerk.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

OF THE TOWN OF

WEST BRIDGEWATER,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

MARCH 1, 1873.

NORTH BRIDGEWATER:
GAZETTE STEAM JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.
1873.

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WEST BRIDGEWATER,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

MARCH 1, 1873.

NORTH BRIDGEWATER:
GAZETTE STEAM JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.
1873.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The Selectmen of the town of West Bridgewater, present the following report of receipts, expenditures, and the financial condition of said town, for the year ending March 1, 1873.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in the hands of the Treasurer, March 1, 1872,	$5,820 53
Tax bills of 1872,	10,495 11
Additional Taxes,	62 79
Cash Received from town of Harwich, on pauper acct.,	16 70
" " Malden, " "	16 00
" " Braintree, " "	10 00
Balance of corporation tax, for 1871,	18 95
Corporation tax, for 1872,	381 64
From the State, for aid to soldiers and their families,	810 00
From the Mass. School Fund,	172 35
For board, &c., at the Almshouse,	23 50
Loaned of Soldier's Monument Association,	2,509 50
On other loans,	1,400 00
Percentage on taxes for 1871,	124 35
From the Almshouse, for oxen,	235 00
	$22,096 42

EXPENDITURES.

Paid County tax,	$1,122 07
State tax,	1,340 00
notes and interest,	4,875 65
for support of schools,	3,733 07
for repairing school property,	142 40
for repairing roads and bridges,	1,297 05
towards Jerusalem road,	1,719 50
for building material for the swamp road towards Raynham,	125 00
moving fence, &c., on roads widened by the selectmen,	28 50
aid to soldiers and their families,	658 00
for support of poor outside of the almshouse,	345 71
for support of poor in the almshouse,	436 20
for use town hall,	75 00
town officers,	553 87
postage, express and stationery,	9 45
for record book,	7 50
for office rent,	15 00
travelling expenses,	7 39
for printing,	80 70
abatement of taxes,	112 79
stocking Nippinnickett pond with herrings,	33 50
harness for the hearse,	50 00
repairing the hearse,	26 00
going with hearse and tolling bell,	23 50
school books,	6 39
six per cent. reduction on tax bills for 1872,	633 35
other items,	7 70
	$17,465 29

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

Outstanding notes, with interest,	$4,433 25
Balance of appropriation for new roads,	1,005 50
Balance of appropriation for repairing roads,	708 17
Balance of appropriation for schools,	917 12
Balance of appropriation for repairing school property,	494 88
	$7,558 92

ASSETS.

Balance in the treasury, March 1, 1873,	$4,631 13
Due from the State, for aid to soldiers and their families,	658 00
Balance against the town,	2,269 79
	$7,558 92

For repairing highways the town appropriated,	$1,500 00
Bal. of 1871 appropriation not drawn from the treasury,	533 72
	$2,033 72
Drawn during the year,	1,325 55
Balance in the treasury, March 1, 1873,	$708 17

The above balance will be subject to some bills for clearing the roads of snow.

SCHOOL HOUSE REPAIRS.

Balance of appropriation in the treasury, March 1, 1872,	$137 28
The appropriation for 1872,	500 00
	$637 28
Drawn from the treasury for that purpose,	142 40
Leaving a balance, March 1, 1873, of	$494 88

SCHOOLS.

Balance in treasury March 1, 1872,	$1,323 85
Appropriation by the town for 1872,	3,000 00
Received from the State School Fund,	172 35
dividend under the dog law,	153 99
	$4,650 19
Drawn for the support of schools,	3,733 07
Balance in the treasury March 1, 1873,	$917 12

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Austin Packard, town clerk,	$28 97
George M. Pratt, treasurer,	150 00
Samuel H. Howard, selectman, overseer of poor, &c.,	14 00
James Howard, " " "	148 75
Davis Copeland, " " "	55 00
Samuel N. Howard, " " "	20 00
Mary A. Thayer, superintendent of schools,	93 90
Cyrus Leonard, " "	8 00
Eli Wheeler, constable,	15 25
James Copeland, road committee,	14 00
Nathan Copeland, " "	3 00

Paid H. L. Washburn, auditing committee,	$1 00
Bradford Copeland, " "	1 00
Caleb Copeland, " "	1 00
	$ 53 87

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Paid for Town Hall,	$75 00
printing reports, order book, &c.,	80 70
postage, express and stationery,	9 45
record book,	7 50
travelling expenses,	7 39
office rent,	15 00
school books,	6 39
going with hearse and tolling bell,	23 50
repairing the hearse,	26 00
harness for the hearse,	50 00
a horse cart and two cart harnesses,	93 50
stocking Nippenicket Pond with herrings,	33 50
abatement on taxes,	112. 79
discount on tax bills for 1872,	633 35
other items,	6 70
	$1,180 77

POOR OUT OF THE ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for Michael Ryan, at Taunton Lunatic Asylum,	$200 55
Ellen Murphy,	43 00
the Fadden family,	92 16
paupers who belong to Braintree,	10 00
	$345 71

RECAPITULATION OF EXPENSES.

County and State taxes,	$2,462 07
Repairing highways and bridges,	1,325 55
New roads,	1,873 00
Support of schools,	3,733 07
Repairing school property,	142 40
State aid,	658 00
Support of poor out of almshouse,	345 71
" " at the almshouse,	436 20
Town officers,	553 87
Incidental expenses,	1,189 77
	$12,719 64

ALMSHOUSE ACCOUNT.

Cr.

Paid for grain,	$228 67
flour and bread,	62 20
meat,	57 48
fish,	14 36
apples,	4 85
groceries,	156 97
clothing and dry goods,	43 47
tools,	6 83
smith work,	34 67
repairs and paint,	18 25
mending harness,	5 15
school books,	1 50
doctor's bill,	8 00
coffin,	3 50
oil, coal and soap,	22 38
poultry and swine,	14 60
various other items,	13 42

Paid town treasurer,	258 50
old bills,	51 30
To credit for work on the roads,	369 00
going with the hearse,	42 50
Paid for cart and harnesses,	93 50
warden's salary 1 year to Jan. 1, 1873,	275 00
	$1,786 10

Dr.

By cash in the hands of warden, March 1, 1872,	$15 67
Received for butter, cheese and lard,	89 11
hay,	27 34
potatoes,	131 26
beef,	305 88
pork,	30 60
poultry and eggs,	76 83
a horse,	35 00
calves,	51 80
profits in trade,	10 00
board and funeral charges,	31 50
old beds sold,	12 50
use of team and other stock,	7 00
from town treasurer to buy a horse,	215 00
" " to pay hired help,	205 00
" " to pay for grain,	85 70
" " to pay for cart and two harnesses,	93 50
" " warden's salary, 9 months,	206 00
on old bills,	45 00
Due the warden 3 months' salary, to Jan. 1, 1873,	69 00
Unpaid bills,	42 44
	$1,786 10

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AT THE ALMSHOUSE AS APPRAISED MARCH 1, 1873.

6½ tons of English hay,	$195 00
7 tons of meadow hay,	105 00
1 horse,	175 00
3 cows,	135 00
3 swine,	28 00
30 hens,	27 00
3 turkeys,	7 00
53 lbs. of butter,	20 14
50 lbs. of cheese,	10 00
50 lbs. of lard,	7 50
12 lbs. of candles,	1 80
200 lbs. of beef,	22 00
225 lbs. pork,	22 50
65 bushels of potatoes,	68 25
8 " of corn,	8 00
2 " of rye,	2 30
3 bags of meal,	4 95
½ bushel of beans,	1 25
Old wagon and harness,	10 00
2 cart harnesses,	28 50
1 horse cart,	65 00
Carts, wheels and farming tools,	140 00
100 loads of manure,	100 00
Lumber,	6 00
Beds and bedding,	75 00
Other furniture,	115 00
Groceries,	10 00
	$1,390 19

The personal property, by the above appraisal, appears to have diminished in value since last year, to the amount of		$311 51
To which add the interest on the property as heretofore estimated,		270 00
And the sum drawn from the treasury in excess of what has been returned,		615 70
Amounts to		$1,197 21
From which amount take the credit given for work on the highways,	$369 00	
For other work,	49 00	
And for going with the hearse,	42 50	—460 50
Gives the cost of the house for the year,		$736 71

Which is $6.57 per week for 112 weeks, or an average of 2 2–13 inmates of the house for the year.

It is evident to every one that the cost of supporting an establishment like the almshouse, will average very much more per head, with a small number of inmates, than with a large number. We will also state that the market value of property, such as produce and stock, &c., varies much from year to year. And if the property now on hand were appraised as high as it was one year ago, it would probably raise the inventory about $112, which would make the cost per head of the inmates of the house, appear about $1.00 per week less; or $5.57.

APPROPRIATIONS.

The selectmen recommend for the town to raise the following sums of money the ensuing year.

For repairing roads,	$2,000
support of schools,	3,000
support of poor,	800
incidental expenses	1,200

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES HOWARD,
DAVIS COPELAND,
SAMUEL N. HOWARD,
Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor of West Bridgewater.

March 1, 1873.

REPORT OF THE ROAD COMMITTEE.

The committee have laid out the money which has been applied to repairing roads and bridges, as follows, viz: From Macken's corner to Bridgewater line, about $250; near John L. Hayward's, about $137; from E. Capen's to North Bridgewater line, about $132; from F. Dunbar's to the Boston road, about $138; near Benjamin Howard's, about $20; a bridge near Amasa Howard's, $30; a bridge near Heman Copeland's, $10; on the swamp road towards Raynham, $45; about $320 was worked by the men and team at the almshouse, most of which was worked in that district, or from Cochesett village towards Easton. The roads west of Flagg's meadow brook and south of Town river were nearly all scraped, and various smaller jobs of gravelling and patching, repairing bridges and picking stone generally, *so far as labor could be obtained*, were attended to. Under the circumstances which the committee were placed, it was impossible for them to obtain workmen, either local or outside laborers, to do work *when* and *where* it was needed, otherwise much more necessary work would have been done. It has been difficult to find a person who would devote a half day to picking out stones, filling ruts, or mending a defective place in the road near his own residence; much more so to do larger jobs.

The Jerusalem road has been nearly completed, and we have been obliged to use some money there which was appropriated for other roads, so that there will have to be a further appropriation when the other roads are built.

The committee purchased some material for the widening of the swamp road towards Raynham, but last season was too wet to work that road.

JAMES COPELAND, } *Road*
JAMES HOWARD, } *Committee.*

March 1, 1873.

LIST OF JURORS.

A list of names of persons selected for Jurors, to be presented to the town at the annual meeting, March 17.

Cyrus Alger,
Horace Bartlett,
Edgar Billings,
Heman Copeland,
Caleb Copeland, Jr.,
Bradford Copeland,
Charles E. Churchill.
Curtis Eddy,
Perez P. Field,
Jason M. French,
Lucius Hayward,
Francis E. Howard.
Horace W. Howard,
William H. Howard,
Samuel N. Howard,
John B. Holmes,
Samuel H. Howard,
Stillman W. Hersey,
Jacob Leonard,
Seba H. Marshall,
Charles N. Martin,
Francis Perkins,
Bradford Packard,
Nahum P. Snell,
Thomas Snell,
Ebenezer Taylor,
Erland Thayer,
Edward Tisdale,
Abiel Washburn.

The Selectmen recommend that Guide Boards be maintained at or near the following named places:

Joshua T. Ryder's,
Justin W. Richards',
Joseph Kingman's,
Lewis Ryder's,
Pine Hill Cemetery,
Charles Howard's,
West of Almshouse,
Edmund Geary's,
Pardon Copeland's,
North Centre school house,
Heman Copeland's,
Nahum Leonard's, 2,
J. Q. Hartwell's,
John Walker's, 2,
Molbry Ripley's,
James Alger's furnace,
Cyrus P. Brown's,
Joseph Alger's,
Barnabas Dunbar's,
Stillman W. Hersey's,
Dwelley Fobes',
Benjamin Howard's,
George Wilbar's,
John B. Holmes',
D. H. Baker's store,
Centre Post Office,
John Mackin's.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

MARRIAGES

Recorded in West Bridgewater in the year 1872.

No.	Date.		Names of Bridegrooms and Brides.
1	Jan.	5	Willard Bryant and Julia M. Edgecomb.
2	"	14	Alton M. Thayer and Ada F. Gurney.
3	Feb.	14	Samuel E. Wilbur and Martha A. Fisher.
4	March	11	John R. Maxwell and Maria L. Washburn.
5	"	16	Charles M. Dickerman and Mary E. Townsend.
6	April	5	Edwin F. Freeman and Martha A. Guess.
7	"	22	Granville O. Talbot and Georgiana Wentworth.
8	May	1	Wilmot J. Hayward and Martha A. Rice.
9	"	30	Marshall Conant and Irene A. Edgecomb.
10	June	25	Edwin G. Babcock and Caroline E. Gifford.
11	"	25	John Moorhouse and Betsey Phillips.
12	"	30	James E. Coggeshall and Hattie E. Holmes.
13	July	6	Joseph Vosmus and Esther Royal.
14	"	28	Jonas G. Hartwell and Ellen A. Simpson.
15	Aug.	31	Charles H. Dunbar and Sarah B. Holmes.
16	Sept.	8	Michael Burke and Ellen Downey.
17	Oct.	3	Charles W. Copeland and Jennet O. Mitchell.
18	"	4	William H. Lindsay and Carrie A. Vosmus.
19	Nov.	15	Martin Luther and Caroline A. Phillips.
20	"	28	George Dawson and Emma J. Thackrah.
21	"	28	George R. Lyon and Ella F. Churchill.
22	Dec.	22	Charles W. Dodge and Helen J. Packard.

DEATHS

Registered in West Bridgewater in the year 1872.

No.	Date.		Names of the Deceased.	Ys.	Ms.	Ds.	Disease or Cause of Death.
1	Jan.	23	Caleb Howard,.....	74	2	18	Consumption.
2		24	Frederick P. Howard,.....	29	4	28	Kidney Disease.
3	Feb.	5	Mary Cushing,.....	33	1		Inflammation of the Bowels.
4		6	Alva Kingman,.....	73	6	21	Consumption.
5		25	Kate A. Burnery,.....	18	1	25	Congestion of Brain.
6	April	2	Lois C. Ripley,.....	43	6	18	Epilepsy.
7		30	Fanny E. Bates,.....		8	26	Bronchitis.
8	May	2	Cynthia K. Stephenson,.....	69	7	14	Influenza.
9		8	William V. Sullivan,.....	14	2	18	Abscess in Head.
10	June	2	Thomas Ryan,.....	80			Old Age.
11	July	7	Jennie M. Howard,.....	13	2	6	Inflammation of the Heart.
12		12	Francis S. Packard,.....	44	2	26	Consumption.
13		22	Austin W. Alger,.....				Drowned.
14	Aug.	5	Florence S. Vosmus,.....		3	10	Consumption.
15		13	——— Wixon,.....			6	Infantile Debility.
16		14	Hannah L. Wixon,.....	26	8		Childbirth.
17		18	Stephen Morey,.....	77	4	27	Paralysis.
18		25	Albert Garisaker,.....		8	9	Cholera Infantum.
19		25	Willie W. Brainard,.....	1	10	10	Dysentery.
20		26	Martin Alger,.....	78	11	7	Old Age.
21	Sept.	5	Charlotte Packard,.....	74	8	7	Dysentery.
22		19	Ellen Geary,.....	52	3		Dropsy about Heart.
23	Oct.	17	John W. Churchill,.....	1	1	9	Dysentery.
24		21	Susan A. Perkins,.....	38	6	25	Consumption.
25		21	Harry Perkins,.....	1	5		Consumption.
26	Nov.	7	Jane Howard,.....	77	7	11	Dropsy.
27		15	Sarah J. Packard,.....	26	6	6	Consumption.
28		26	Mary Mackin,.....	52			Dropsy.
29	Dec.	19	Olive J. Lothrop,.....	38	8	29	Consumption.
30		20	Edmund Landers,.....	85	6	7	Paralysis.

The number of births recorded in said town in the year 1872, is 36.

AUSTIN PACKARD, Town Clerk.

TOWN MEETING.

The annual Town Meeting will be on Monday, the 17th of March, at one o'clock, P. M., to act upon the following articles:

1st. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

2d. To hear and act upon the several reports of officers and committees of the town.

3d. To act on the list of Jurors reported by the Selectmen.

4th. To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year.

5th. To see if the town will accept the provisions of the 158th chapter of the Acts of 1871, which provides for the election of a board of Road Commissioners, &c.

6th. To determine the manner of repairing Highways and Bridges the ensuing year.

7th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the town the ensuing year, and make appropriation of the same.

8th. By petition of Barnabas Dunbar and others, "To see if the town will authorize the chairman of the board of selectmen to draw an order on the town treasurer, in favor of Elijah Hancock, for the sum of three hundred dollars, in addition to his salary, for extra services rendered the town, during the past year."

9th. To see what action the town will take in regard to roads which have been laid out within the limits thereof.

10th. To see if the town will direct the School Committee to appoint a superintendent of the schools therein.

11th To see if the town will appropriate a sum, to defray, in part, the expenses of a course of public lectures.

12th. To see if the town will appropriate the dividend accruing under the execution of the dog law, for the support of schools.

13th. By request of W. H. Jennings, "To see if the town will instruct the selectmen to lay out as a public highway the road leading from Main street, near E. Tisdale's store, to the Baptist parsonage, thence east to the road leading from the Widow Lothrop's house to Mr. Sullivan's. Also the road leading from Main street, near Friend Howard's, to house occupied by Alman Rounds."

SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT,

For the School Year ending March, 1873.

Board of School Committee for the year commencing March, 1872.

For One Year.

CYRUS ALGER,
J. Q. HARTWELL,
BRADFORD COPELAND.

For Two Years.

CYRUS LEONARD,
JUSTIN RICHARDS,
MRS. F. P. HAMBLETT.

For Three Years.

BENJAMIN PERKINS,
J. L. HAYWARD,
ISAAC HOWARD.

ISAAC HOWARD, Chairman.
CYRUS LEONARD, Secretary and Superintendent.

The term of service for which Messrs. Hartwell, Alger and Copeland were chosen will expire with the present month. There is also a vacancy (occasioned by the resignation of Mrs. Hamblett,) to be filled for one year.

The expenses of the several schools for the year are as follows:

Centre School.

Wages of Teacher for 32 weeks,	$485 00
Fuel and preparing same,	49 63
Care of house and fires,	9 00
	$543 63

Cochesett Schools.

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks, (Grammar department,)	$500 00
" " 32 weeks, (Primary department,)	288 00
Fuel and preparing,	50 50
Care of house and fire,	9 00
	$847 50

East School.

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks,	$320 00
Fuel and preparing,	29 25
Care of house and fire,	5 00
	$354 25

Jerusalem School.

Wages of Teacher, 33 weeks,	$285 00
Fuel and preparing,	22 50
Care of house and fire,	5 00
	$312 50

North School.

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks,	$256 00
Fuel and preparing,	12 00
Care of house and fire,	4 00
	$272 00

North Centre School.

Wages of Teacher, 35 weeks,	$280 00
Fuel and preparing,	31 50
Care of house and fire,	4 00
	$315 50

South School.

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks,	$310 00
Fuel and preparing,	8 25
Care of house and fire,	5 00
	$323 25
Paid to Committee of East Bridgewater, for pupils attending school in that town from Beaver district, (so called)	$230 58
Total cost of schools,	$3,199 21
Balance in the treasury, after paying for schools of last year,	$617 87
Town appropriation for support of schools,	3,000 00
State school fund for 1872,	172 35
From county, (dog tax, 1871)	153 99
	$3,944 21
	3,199 21
Balance unexpended,	$745 00

There has been expended for incidentals and repairs for the several schools the past year as follows:

Centre school,	$26 00
Cochesett schools,	56 55
East school,	22 20
Jerusalem school,	8 75
North school,	15 20
North Centre school,	90
South school,	22 78
Total cost of repairs and incidentals,	$152 38

Balance of appropriation March 1st, 1872,	$137 28
Appropriation of 1872,	500 00
	$637 28
	152 38
Balance unexpended,	$484 90

On account of the unfavorable season no well was dug, the painting and building fence were omitted, consequently a large portion of the appropriation remains unexpended. Several of the school houses now need painting, and, we think, will be the present year.

The number of persons in town between the ages of five and fifteen, as reported by the Assessors, is 351. Of this number, 27 reside in what is termed the Beaver district, and have had the privilege of attending school in East Bridgewater.

In accordance with a vote of the town, the Centre schools have been united the past year, and we believe with advantageous results. The committee would not recommend any change in this school at present.

Your committee would recommend that the sum of $3,000 be appropriated for the support of schools the coming year; believ-

ing this sum, with that received from the state and county, sufficient, with present arrangements, to defray all necessary school expenses.

For general information concerning schools, we refer you to the annexed report of the superintendent.

Respectfully submitted,

ISAAC HOWARD,
CYRUS ALGER,
J. Q. HARTWELL,
BENJAMIN PERKINS,
CYRUS LEONARD,
JUSTIN RICHARDS,
BRADFORD COPELAND,
J. L. HAYWARD,

School Committee of West Bridgewater.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the School Committee of West Bridgewater:—

Gentlemen: In conformity with the requirements of your regulations I respectfully submit the following report for the school year ending March 1st, 1873.

During the past year I have made seventy-three visits to the several schools, which number nearly corresponds with the minimum requirement of the statutes. These visits were made without notice to the teachers, the object being to obtain as accurate a knowledge as possible of the condition and daily work of each school.

I have carefully abstained from any interference in the details of the internal arrangements of the schools, strictly confining myself to such general suggestions as occasion seemed to call for.

The school year just closed has been one of more than usual prosperity. The earnest and persevering efforts of most of our teachers have been crowned with eminent success.

The progress made in the various branches is generally very satisfactory, and notably so in some of them. The improvement in reading is remarkable and worthy of much praise.

A system of vocal Gymnastics has been introduced into some of our schools, during the past year, designed to secure, among other objects, a position of body in sitting and standing conducive, in a high degree, to correct habits of breathing, a full development of the chest and voice, as well as to distinct and forcible utterance, without which there can be neither good reading, speaking nor singing.

The results accomplished in Geography are creditable, particularly so in the skill displayed in the art of map drawing.

Arithmetic is generally well taught, and I have been very much gratified with the accuracy of expression, clearness of illustration, and the order and neatness of black-board work.

The time devoted to Writing in some of the schools appears to me to be rather less than is desirable, considering the manifest importance of this department of education.

I feel it my duty to refer pointedly to the almost total neglect of Composition in some of our schools, while in others considerable attention is given thereto, especially in the East school, where the children have made great proficiency in this unquestionably useful and desirable accomplishment.

The state of discipline which has been maintained, generally, in our schools during the past year, is highly creditable to the teachers. It affords me much pleasure to be able to state that the school property has been well preserved. Indeed, the improvement in this respect speaks well for the vigilance of the teachers and the conscientious thoughtfulness of the scholars. The praiseworthy efforts of our teachers have very generally been crowned with success, and the condition of our schools today is such as should afford much encouragement for the future.

My report would be incomplete without referring to the attendance of the scholars. It is almost impossible to over-estimate the lamentable effects of absence in retarding the prosperity of our schools. This is is a subject which imperatively demands the most serious attention of all parents and guardians.

The following figures speak for themselves:

Whole number of scholars, between five and fifteen years of age, belonging to the schools the past year,	375
Average attendance,	300
" absence,	75
Percentage of attendance,	80 per cent.
" " absence,	20 "

I deem it inexpedient to publish, in detail, the merits or demerits of the different schools. To those desiring a more full and accurate knowledge of their condition I would extend an earnest invitation to visit them, guaranteeing to all a cordial reception by the respective teachers. What influence can be more productive of good to our schools than that exerted by the frequent visits of parents and guardians? It cheers and warms the hearts of both teachers and scholars, stimulating their minds to renewed exertion. The efforts of parents and teachers being united, it is comparatively easy to correct the mistakes and offences of pupils, but how difficult the task when such co-operation is wanting. I would therefore urge parents to make haste to become acquainted with the guardians and instructors of those most dear to them, and at the same time I would impress upon teachers the importance of calling early and often upon their pupils and of studying the home influences by which they are surrounded. The information thus obtained will materially aid the teachers in the discharge of their responsible and arduous duties.

CYRUS LEONARD, *Superintendent.*

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

NAMES OF TEACHERS.	Length of School in months.	Wages of Teacher per month.	Number of Pupils.	Average attendance.	Percentage of attendance.	Number Pupils over 15 years of age.	No. Pupils under 5 yrs. of age.
Cochesett Grammar School.							
J. J. Prentiss, Spring,	2½	$62 50	35	30.2	86.28	4	
" " Fall,	2½	62 50	34	25.6	75.3	6	
" " Winter,	3	62 50	37	32	86.5	10	
Cochesett Primary School.							
Irene S. Wood,	2½	$36 00	48	38.75	80.7		
" " "	2½	36 00	50	42	84		
" " "	3	36 00	42	33.6	80		
Centre School.							
Cyrus Leonard, Spring,	2½	$60 00	50	37.18	74.5	2	
" " Fall,	2½	62 00	45	36	80	0	
Carrie Howard, Principal, } Mary L. Perkins, Assistant, }	3	60 00	46	37.25	81	3	
East School.							
Mary A. Thayer, Spring,	2½	$40 00	38	31.67	83	1	2
" " " Fall,	2½	40 00	44	37.25	84.5	6	2
" " " Winter,	3	40 00	38	26.8	70.7	5	1
South School.							
Maggie L. Shea, Spring,	2½	$36 00	55	48	87.2		2
" " " Fall,	2½	40 00	62	54.1	87.9		1
" " " Winter,	3	40 00	58	44	77.4		
North Centre School.							
Enna M. Packard, Spring,	2½	$32 00	31	23.3	75		1
" " " Fall,	3	32 00	27	22.5	83		
" " " Winter,	3¼	32 00	27	22.3	83		
North School.							
Carrie Howard, Spring,	2½	$32 00	30	25.25	84	1	
" " Fall,	2½	32 00	25	21	84		
Carrie Copeland, Winter,	3	32 00	21	14.21	67.7	1	
Jerusalem School.							
Minnie Pasco, 4 weeks, } H. S. Dunbar, 7 " } Spring,		$32 00					
	2½	36 00	27	19	70	2	
H. S. Dunbar, Fall,	2¾	36 00	25	16	64	2	
Lizzie J. Jones, Winter,		32 00					

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

OF THE TOWN OF

WEST BRIDGEWATER,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1874.

NORTH BRIDGEWATER:
GAZETTE STEAM JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.
1874.

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1874.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS, AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

As it may not be generally understood how the financial affairs of the town are conducted, and as some may wish to be informed,—a right due to every citizen,—we will state that all bills are paid by the Treasurer. Such bills or accounts must be approved by the committees or agents having charge of the department in which they are incurred, and rendered to the board of Selectmen, who determine the propriety and legality of the same, and if properly contracted and vouched for, order the Treasurer to pay them. Although the town annually chooses an Auditing Committee, their duties consist in simply determining the propriety of the charges of the several town officers, committees and agents, and of other charges which may be presented out of the usual order, before the Selectmen will order their payment. Thus the board of Selectmen have a general supervision of the financial interests of the town, and no moneys are paid from the treasury thereof without a proper warrant therefor granted by said board.

TAXES.

Some tax payers have expressed much surprise that the individual taxes of 1873, in town, vary so much from those of 1872. We wish to state that said variation is principally attributable to the changes made in the mode of taxing the national bank stock. In 1872 it was taxed by the towns where it belonged. In 1873

the towns could not tax it. And as said stock constitutes one-fifteenth of the valuation of this town, such changes necessarily vary the individual taxes of our citizens considerably, even if the amount of money raised by taxation were the same each year. Some taxes *may be* less when said stock is not taxed, while others must be more.

VALUATION,

As assessed in West Bridgewater, May 1, 1873.

Value of Real Estate,	$646,896
Value of Personal Estate,	208,143
Total,	$855,039

The national bank stock and other corporation stocks were not taxable in town this year.

Number of	Polls taxed was	470
"	Dwelling Houses,	337
"	Acres of Land taxed,	9,867
"	Cows taxed,	366
"	Horses taxed,	248

ASSESSMENTS.

Town Grant,	$8,300 00
State Tax,	1,507 50
County Tax,	1,122 07
Overlayings,	61 02
Total,	$10,990 59

Rate of taxation, $11.75 on $1,000. Poll tax, $2.00. Number of persons assessed only a poll tax, 168. Number of non-residents taxed in town, 152.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

The following is a summary statement of the receipts and payments of the year:—

Balance in the treasury, March 1, 1873,	$4,631 13
Amount received during the year,	15,266 07
Total,	$19,897 20

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS.

The sums received were from the following sources:

The Tax Bills of 1873,	$10,990 59
From State Treasurer, income from School Fund,	164 83
Balance of Corporation Tax for 1872,	18 57
Corporation Tax for 1873,	463 77
National Bank Tax for 1873,	732 23
"State Aid" furnished sundry persons,	600 00
From County Treasurer, "Dog Tax" for 1872,	170 69
From County Treasurer, "Dog Tax" for 1873,	154 30
Loan from Isaac Howard,	500 00
Loan from Howard and Washburn,	1,100 00
Loan from Betsey Edson,	225 00
Loan from Soldiers' Monument Association,	15 00
Six per cent. on 1872 Taxes, paid after Jan. 1, 1873	109 09
From settlement of E. Murphy's Estate,	22 00
Total,	$15,266 07
Balance as above,	4,631 13
Total,	$19,897 20

PAYMENTS.

The sums disbursed during the year were on the following accounts :—

For support of Schools,	$3,115 24
Repairs of School Property, Books, and Incidentals,	431 40
Repairs of Highways, and Clearing Snow,	2,610 25
Widening and Building New Roads,	1,124 37
Material for " "	146 17
Land Damage and Moving Fences,	216 00
Support of E. S. Copeland at Hospital,	91 70
Support of Poor out of Almshouse,	264 27
Teams, Carts and Harnesses for Town Farm,	619 75
Use of Carts, Wagon, Hay and other Farming Tools,	27 75
Town Hall,	75 00
Town Loans and Interest,	2,655 32
State Tax,	1,507 50
County Tax,	1,122 07
State Aid,	551 40
Stocking Nippinnicket Pond,	21 38
Vaccination,	10 50
Map of the Bridgewaters,	10 00
Printing,	53 25
Office Rent,	15 00
Postage, Express, Stationery, &c.,	9 44
Public Lectures,	100 00
Town Officers, and Committees,	667 35
Abatement of Taxes,	49 94
An Allowance of six per cent, on Tax Bills for 1873,	659 43
H. W. Howland, for Bridge Stones, used in 1871,	16 50
Tolling Bell at Deaths,	20 50
Total,	$16,191 48

LIABILITIES AND UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS.

Amount of Outstanding Loans, Feb. 28, 1874,	$3,574 50
Interest accrued thereon,	316 06
Total,	$3,890 56
School money not expended or not drawn,	1,291 70
Incidental money for repairs of School property,	263 48
Appropriation for Road repairs not expended,	595 92
Total,	$6,041 66

ASSETS.

Balance in the Treasury, March 1, 1874,	$3,705 72
Due from "State Aid,"	615 40
Due from Ezra S. Copeland,	91 70
Amount of Assets,	$4,412 82
Indebtedness of the Town, March 1, 1874,	1,628 84
Amount as above,	$6,041 66

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Austin Packard, Town Clerk,	$29 15
George M. Pratt, Treasurer,	150 00
James Howard, Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor,	171 35
Davis Copeland, Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor,	65 50
Samuel N. Howard, Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor,	75 10
Cyrus Leonard, Superintendent of Schools,	163 75
Eli Wheeler, Constable,	7 50
Auditing Committee,	5 00
	$667 35

SCHOOLS.

Balance in Treasury, March 1, 1873,	$917 12
Appropriation by the Town, for 1873,	3,000 00
Received from the School Fund,	164 83
Received from "Dog Tax" for 1872,	170 69
Received from "Dog Tax" for 1873,	154 30
Total,	$4,406 94
Drawn for support of Schools,	3,115 24
Balance in Treasury, March 1, 1874,	$1,291 70

REPAIRS OF SCHOOL PROPERTY AND INCIDENTALS.

Balance in the Treasury, March, 1, 1873,	$494 88
The Appropriation of 1873,	200 00
Total,	$694 88
Drawn from the Treasury for that use,	431 40
Balance in Treasury, March 1, 1874,	$263 48

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES,

Paid for Town Hall,	$75 00
Printing Reports and Blanks,	53 25
Postage, Express, Stationery, &c,	9 44
Office Rent,	15 00
C. Swan, for vaccinating,	10 50
Stocking Nippinnickett Pond with Herring,	21 38
Town Map,	10 00
Tolling Bell at Deaths,	20 50
Abatement on Taxes,	49 94
Discount on Tax Bills for 1873,	659 43
	$924 44

HIGHWAYS.

Unexpended money for Repairing Roads, (in the Treasury, March 1, 1873,)	$708 17
Appropriated for the Repair of Roads, 1873,	2,500 00
	$3,208 17
Paid Bills for Clearing Snow, April 1873,	166 07
Balance,	$3,042 10

At the annual meeting, March 1873, the Town voted to divide the roads therein into seven districts to be placed in charge of seven surveyors for repairs, on the same plan that it was in 1871. The following schedule will show the name of the surveyor, the sum appropriated, and the amount spent in each district during the year :—

District No. 1, Nahum Packard, Surveyor,	$600 00
Amount expended,	551 11
Balance,	$48 89
District No. 2, T. P. Ripley, Surveyor,	$350 00
Amount expended,	308 45
Balance,	$41 55
District No. 3, Erland Thayer, Surveyor,	$600 00
Amount expended,	571 26
Balance,	$28 74
District No. 4, S. G. Copeland, Surveyor,	$400 00
Amount expended,	238 51
Balance,	$161 49

District No. 5, Eli Wheeler, Surveyor,	$250 00
Amount expended,	248 85
Balance,	$1 15
District No. 6, A. L. Alger, Surveyor,	$350 00
Amount expended,	198 42
Balance,	$151 58
District No. 7, J. Q. Hartwell, Surveyor,	$350 00
Amount expended,	329 58
Balance,	$20 42

Of the $2,900, appropriated among the Highway Districts, a balance of $453.82 appears as not expended, if the returns are fully made. Which added to $142.10 of the appropriation not so divided, gives $595.92 as an unexpended balance of the highway appropriation. District No. 6 reports some work contracted for that has not been performed. And there may yet be snow bills to pay. Of the Reports required of the several Surveyors, by a vote of the Town, passed the 17th of March last, the following has been furnished:

Erland Thayer, Surveyor District No. 3, reports cost of carting 44 3-8 cords of gravel from Kingman's hill to Center street, near J. T. Ryder's, $3 per cord. Carting 15 cords, from S. N. Howard's hill to near J. L. Hayward's on Center street, $4 per cord. Carting 26½ cords from Richard's hill to Pleasant street, near D. W. Tinkham's, $3.40 per cord. Carting 13½ cords from Richard's hill to Matfield street, near J. W. French's, $1.65 per cord. Carting 12 cords from Kingman's hill on East street, to near Charles Beal's, $3.36 per cord. Carting 15½ cords from Richard's hill to Pleasant street, near E. Welch's, $2.45 per cord. Carting 7 5-8 cords from E. Thayer's hill to Union street, near M. Kingman's, $1.37 per cord. Carting 6 1-6 cords from Richard's hill to Pleasant street near J. W. Rich-

ard's, $2.4325 per cord. Carting 11 cords from Richard's hill, on Matfield street, near the Railroad, $1.32 per cord. Carting 9 cords from Richard's hill to Pleasant street, near D. W. Tinkham's, $3.16 per cord. Scraping the road and picking stones, $70. Building a culvert, $16. Repairing culvert, $3.88. Mowing bushes, $1.68.

Samuel G. Copeland, Surveyor District No. 4, reports the average cost of removing gravel in his district to have been about $1.50 per cord.

A. D. Alger, Surveyor District No. 6, reports the cost of spreading gravel upon the roads in his district, as averaging about $2.50 per cord.

NEW WORK ON ROADS.

Paid Edward Tisdale, for shaping the road on High Street, Cochesett,	$50 00
J. F. Hall, for work on Swamp, road toward Raynham,	17 50
*Albert L. Alger, do do do	125 00
Robinson of Raynham, for a gravel-pit for said Swamp road,	75 00
Eli Wheeler, for work on bridge and wall on new road from Post Office by Mills,	21 50
J. Luddy, for work on last named road,	7 25
J. Connas, " "	3 83
J. Hennessy, " "	3 25

The men and teams employed at the Town Farm have done work on said road since the first of September last, including moving walls and building bridges, amounting to 848 48

Paid J. D. Burrell, for stones for said road, 47 00

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*Alger's contract on Swamp road is but partially finished.

Paid T. Dewyre, for sand for said road,	$10 92
M. A. Ripley, for moving wall on the road from Pine Cemetery towards Matfield,	12 60

The men and teams from Town Farm have done work on the last named road amounting to 133 42

POOR OUT OF ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for Michael Ryan, at Taunton Hospital,	$196 40
Expenses incurred in conveying Catharine Kenny to the Lunatic Asylum,	25 49
Furnished aid to Mrs. Polly Reed,	25 00
Furnished aid to Ellen Fisher,	15 00
Expenses incurred with F. Fadden,	2 38
	$264 27

Inventory of Personal Property at the Town Farm, as appraised March 1, 1874,

3½ tons of English hay,	$98 00
6 tons of Meadow hay,	78 00
3 tons of Millett,	69 00
2 Horses,	300 00
2 Oxen,	225 00
3 Cows,	135 00
2 Swine,	30 00
34 Fowls,	34 00
1 new Ox Cart,	75 00
2 Horse Carts,	130 00
2 Cart harnesses, collars, hams, &c.,	38 50
1 new Express harness,	40 00
Hay and wood riggings, wheels, and other farming tools,	125 00
1 old wagon and some lumber,	11 00

112 lbs. salt pork,	$12 32
33 lbs. of butter,	13 20
60 bushels of potatoes,	51 00
Grain and meal,	15 37
Salt, nails, and pickles,	5 00
Ashes and Manure,	122 50
Beds, bedsteads and bedding,	69 00
Stoves and other furniture,	75 00
Iron pump and fixtures, not in use.	7 00
Milk closet,	6 00
	$1,764 89
Inventory as appraised March 1, 1873,	1,390 10
Balance of property in excess of 1873,	$374 79

THE FARM OR OVERSEER.

Dr.

Cash paid to workmen,	$389 69
tools,	5 15
Smith work,	44 05
repairs,	10 87
fencing material,	9 40
seeds and plants,	12 88
kerosene and other oils,	5 15
flour,	101 60
grain,	414 49
sugar and molasses,	34 34
meat, fish, and curing hams,	78 48
lard, cheese, crackers and sweet potatoes,	5 84
apples, onions and buckwheat,	22 15
spices, saleratus, cream tartar,	2 73
corn-starch, rice and raisins,	1 92

Cash paid tea and coffee,	$8 10
other groceries,	31 10
salt, soap, matches, medicines and vinegar,	19 41
saw bill, butcher and surgery,	5 38
use of animals and cart,	6 05
tiles for road,	13 25
express and cart harnesses,	56 75
milk closet,	6 50
pump, pipe, &c.,	32 00
Mrs. Fadden,	12 31
crash, blanket and utensils for house,	6 61
in three horse trades,	63 00
coal and grain bills of 1872,	39 07
paying E. Hancock's salary for six months prior to April 1, 1873,	139 25
paying A. Howard's salary for 11 months. to March 1, 1874,	550 00
paying for one pair of oxen,	200 00
paying for one horse,	155 00
one ox cart,	90 00
use of express wagon and haying tools,	25 00
one horse cart,	85 00
	$2,682 49

Cr.

Butter Sold,	$189 34
Cheese "	12 24
Milk "	1 28
Calves "	5 00
Fowls "	32 00
Pigs "	41 00
Pork "	7 75
Colt "	30 00
Eggs "	10 71

Potatoes Sold,	$53 98
Seed Corn "	50
Cash from N. Willis, Easton,	5 00
Going with Hearse 24 times,	60 00
" " " 4 times out of town,	11 50
" " " 1 time by E. Hancock,	2 50
Work done on Highways for Packard,	354 50
" " " Hartwell,	179 00
" " " Ripley,	50 00
Work done on the new road by the Mill,	848 48
Work done near Pine Hill Cemetery,	133 42
Work done for individuals,	111 70
	$2,139 09
Excess of value of Personal Property,	374 70
	$2,514 60
Cash for work done by E. Hancock in 1873,	20 00
	$2,534 60
The above account shows a balance against the Farm of	$169 89
If the bills paid this year, which were incurred previously, were taken from the above balance, viz., E. Hancock's salary previous to March 1, 1873,—$116.36, and other bills $16.07 in excess of what was received from a similar source. Total,	$132 43
Leaves a balance of	$37 46

In addition to the interest of the property, as the cost of supporting the Poor in the House.

No. of Paupers during the year 1 7-26, or 66 weeks.

The above account may be more intelligible if the Treasury account is separated from that of the Farm:—The amount drawn from the treasury to pay bills of the town farm, incurred during the year, is	$2,063 86
The amount of service rendered the town by said establishment, is	1,646 55
Balance paid above the service rendered,	417 31
Take from this the amount paid for teams, carts and harnesses,	619 75
Gives a balance in favor of the Farm,	$202 44

The town farm, or almshouse, with the reduced number of paupers which were required to be supported there during a few years last past, and the poor success in obtaining a suitable family to manage it, had become an expensive establishment to support, in proportion to the benefit received from it. The expediency of doing more or less of the Highway work in connection with the use of the Almshouse, has been favorably entertained by many citizens for several years. And some change for improvement being demanded, the committee having charge of that department of town affairs one year ago, engaged a man and family to take charge of the Farm, with the design of doing road work, employing men and procuring teams as it might be found practicable. That has been done with some degree of success, although the parties engaged have labored under some disadvantages. During the first month covered by this report, the previous occupant had charge of the Farm, and but very little was accomplished. All the team owned at the farm when the year commenced, was one horse ; and that proved unsuitable for the use required. During the month of April, the providing suitable teams and men, and the want of them, prevented the accomplishment of more than half the amount of work which was done in the succeeding months. Therefore ten and one half months

actual operations is all that can be counted. The Farm is not favorably located for men and teams, living there, to work the roads. In order to be at the place of operations and have ten hours labor performed daily, by men and teams, the overseer has been obliged to be on the road about twelve and one half hours each day, when doing such work, during the year.

A central location would be more favorable. The house and other buildings have been robbed during the year, of provisions, clothing and tools, amounting to $30 or more; and they have lost a good hog, worth as much more. An attempt was made to drive a well, for convenience to the house, at some cost, but did not succeed.

The Farm is now provided with teams, with which another year can be commenced more favorably. They have a good pair of oxen, which cost $200; one horse which cost $175, and one which cost, by two exchanges, the mare and colt and $13; two addional carts costing $175.

The annual Town Meeting will take place on Monday, the 16th inst., at 1 o'clock, P. M.

JAMES HOWARD,
DAVIS COPELAND,
S. N. HOWARD,
} *Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor Of the Town of West Bridgewater*

March 1, 1874.

LIST OF JURORS.

A list of names of persons selected for Jurors, to be presented to the town at the annual meeting, March 16.

Charles S. Alger,
Horace Bartlett,
Edgar Billings,
Bradford Copeland,
Caleb Copeland, Jr.,
John Copeland,
Charles E. Churchill,
Perez P. Field,
Curtis Eddy,
Lucius Hayward,
John B. Holmes,
William H. Howard,
Samuel H. Howard,
Samuel N. Howard,
Isaac Howard,
Henry W. Leach,
John A. Millett,
Benj. Perkins,
Francis Perkins,
George M. Pratt,
Shepherd L. Pratt,
George D. Ryder,
Joseph E. Ryder,
Molbry A. Ripley,
Thomas Snell,
Ebenezer Taylor,
Hiram G. Washburn,
George Wilbar.

The Selectmen recommend that Guide Boards be maintained at or near the following named places:

Joshua T. Ryder's,
Justin W. Richards',
Joseph Kingman's,
Lewis Ryder's,
Pine Hill Cemetery,
Charles Howard's,
West of Almshouse,
Edmund Geary's,
Pardon Copeland's,
North Center school house,
Heman Copeland's,
Nahum Leonard's, 2,
J. Q. Hartwell's,
John Walker's, 2,
Molbry Ripley's,
James Alger's furnace,
Cyrus P. Brown's,
Joseph Alger's,
Barnabas Dunbar's,
Stillman W. Hersey's,
Dwelley Fobes',
Benjamin Howard's,
George Wilbar's,
John B. Holmes',
D. H. Baker's store,
Center Post Office,
Thomas Mackin's,

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

MARRIAGES

Recorded in West Bridgewater in the year 1873.

No.	Date.	Names of Bridegrooms and Brides.
1	Jan. 12	Herbert A. Alger and Lizzie E. Clapp.
2	March 17	Albert A. Packard and Lydia B. Jenness.
3	April 11	Enoch B. Wilbur and Rhoda F. Rice.
4	May 19	Joshua Morse and Cisel B. Gustsaker.
5	June 8	Albert W. Gibbs and Mary A. Otis.
6	July 7	Melvin A. Witherell and Eveline J. Packard.
7	Aug. 23	William N. Shipman and Sarah F. Vosmus.
8	Nov. 11	Algernon S. Lyon and Louisa F. Copeland.
9	Dec. 4	Thomas J. Ames and Emily J. Packard.
10	Dec. 27	Charles H. Egan and Jennie F. Clark.
11	Dec. 31	Herbert M. Crossley and Rhoda Martin.

Notice of the intention of marriage between the following persons has been recorded, but no certificate of any of them has been returned to this town.

No.	Date.	Names of Bridegrooms and Brides.
1	Jan. 16	Dennis Kelleher and Mary Owens.
2	April 24	Patrick Kenney and Catherine Roche.
3	July 12	John Geary and Mary L. Gallegan.
4	Sept. 5	Stephen Fryes and Polly Randall.
5	Oct. 25	Frederick W. Lincoln and Sarah J. Cummings.
6	Nov. 7	Thomas O'Brien and Honora O'Brien.
7	Nov. 11	Walter Baxendale and Helen Fisher.

DEATHS

Registered in West Bridgewater in the year 1873.

No.	Date.		Name of the Deceased.	Ys.	Ms.	Ds.	Disease or Cause of Death.
1	Jan.	9	Reuben H. Packard,.....	19	3	20	Consumption.
2		16	Maria Bailey,.....	72	1	1	Epilepsy.
3		25	——— Horton,.....			3	Debility.
4	Feb.	2	Elizabeth D. Dunbar,.....	61	3	27	Heart Disease.
5		17	Elizabeth Holmes,.....	32	1	20	Consumption.
6	March	19	Lizzie D. Callehan,.....	31	2	17	Congestion of Lungs.
7		20	Jennie Penperses,.....		3	20	Lung Fever.
8		27	Marshall Conant,.....	23	7	19	Consumption.
9	April	3	Eliza Geary,.....	13	7	19	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.
10		16	Harriet Keith,...	78	6		Heart Disease.
11	May	6	Caroline F. Hersey,.....	31	5	10	Consumption.
12		30	Abbie F. Dunbar,.....	33	9		Consumption.
13	June	22	Simeon Dunbar,.....	65	4		Suicide.
14		27	Thomas W. Welch,.....		10	25	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.
15	Aug.	4	Mary W. Clark,.....	55	5	25	Rheumatism.
16		29	Abbie F. Dunbar,.....		5		Whooping Cough.
17		31	Edgar E. Caldwell,.....	28	3	20	Consumption.
18	Sept.	12	Mary A. Churchill,.....		4	19	Consumption.
19		21	Abbie B. Holbrook,.....		6	5	Cholera Infantum.
20		28	Betsey Parker,.....	78	5	18	Old Age.
21	Oct.	9	Mehetabel Keith,.....	88	7	19	Old Age.
22		18	Thomas Ames,.....	73	5	18	Disease of Bladder.
23	Nov.	8	Emma U. Butler,.....	29	11	17	Heart Disease.
24		15	Jonas Hartwell,.....	81	4	26	Kidney Disease.
25		21	Sylvia N. Stackpole,.....	25	10	29	Consumption.
26	Dec.	15	Charles Reed,.....	57	11	18	Apoplexy.
27		15	Jonathan W. Keith,.....	10	9	20	Inflammation of Bowels.
28		17	Sally Ames,.....	87	6	14	Old Age.
29		27	Azella H. Richards,.....			1	Debility.
30		28	Florence M. Gurney,.....	2		27	Congestion of Lungs.
31		31	Susanna McLaughlin,.....	73	9		Paralysis.
32		31	Hannah K. Richards,.....	26	4	20	Consumption.

The number of births registered in said town in the year 1873, was 24.

AUSTIN PACKARD, Town Clerk.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Of the Town of West Bridgewater,

For the Year Ending March, 1874.

Board of School Committee for the year commencing March, 1873.

For One Year.

CYRUS LEONARD,
JUSTIN RICHARDS,
ELI WHEELER,

For Two Years.

BENJAMIN PERKINS,
J. L. HAYWARD,
ISAAC HOWARD.

For Three Years.

P. P. FIELD.
HERMAN COPELAND.
IRENE WOOD.

ISAAC HOWARD, Chairman,
CYRUS LEONARD, Secretary and Superintendent.

The term of service for which Messrs. Leonard, Richards, and Wheeler were chosen expires with the present year. There are also two vacancies to be filled for two years. Miss Irene Wood declines further service on the committee. Mr. J. B. Packard's term also expires with the year, he having been chosen to fill a vacancy for the year, occasioned by the declining of Mr. Heman Copeland.

The expenses of the several schools for the year are as follows:

Center School.

Wages of Teacher, for 32 weeks,	$326 00
Fuel and preparing same,	25 25
Care of house and fires,	4 50
	$355 75

Cochesett Schools.

Wages of Teacher, 29 3-5 weeks,(Grammar department,)	$332 25
Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks, (Primary department,)	266 00
Fuel and preparing same,	39 00
Care of house and fires,	10 00
	$647 25

East School.

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks,	$276 00
Fuel and preparing same,	30 50
Care of house and fires,	5 00
	$311 50

Jeruselem School.

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks,	$256 00
Fuel and preparing same,	23 71
Care of house and fires,	5 00
	$284 71

North School.

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks,	$256 00
Fuel and preparing same,	20 30
Care of house and fires,	5 00
	$281 30

North Centre School.

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks,	$256 00
Fuel and preparing same,	33 25
Care of house and fires,	4 00
	$293 25

South School.

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks,	$330 00
Fuel and preparing same,	18 25
Care of house and fires,	5 00
	$353 25

Union School.

Wages of Teacher, 20 weeks,	$310 00
Fuel and preparing same,	37 00
Care of house and fires,	10 00
	$357 00
There has been paid to East Bridgewater, for pupils attending school in that town,	$149 54
Old Bill not previously reported, from Cochesett,	15 75
	$165 29
Total cost of schools, exclusive of repairs and incidentals,	$3,049 20
Balance of former appropriation,	745 00
Town appropriation for support of schools,	3,000 00
From State school fund for 1873,	164 83
Dividend under the dog law, 1872,	170 69
Dividend under the dog law, 1873,	154 30
	$4,234 82
	3,049 20
Balance unexpended,	$1,185 62

Of the appropriation for repairs there has been expended for the several schools the past year as follows:

Centre, for painting house,	$25 51
" " other repairs and incidentals,	23 35
Cochesett, for painting house,	57 42
" " other repairs and incidentals,	12 05
East, " painting house,	62 72
" " repairs and incidentals,	7 50
Jerusalem, for painting house,	36 29
" " repairs and incidentals,	9 50
North, for repairs and incidentals,	3 20
North Center, for repairs and incidentals,	6 05
South, for painting house,	34 18
" " fence,	49 85
" " other repairs and incidentals,	6 90
	$334 52
To which may be added old bills not previously reported, from Cochesett, to the amount of	13 38
There has been furnished for general use of schools, books, crayons, ink, &c., to the amount of	63 33
Books furnished pupils not otherwise provided,	6 69
Total cost of repairs and incidentals,	$417 92
Balance of appropriation March 1st 1873,	484 90
Appropriation of 1873,	200 00
	$684 90
	417 92
Balance unexpended,	$266 98

Some of the slating is being repaired in our school houses and there may be some small bills not reported which will reduce the fund for repairs. It was expected that one or more wells would have been provided for the benefit of schools and the pub-

lic, for which a portion of the fund for repairs and improvements has been reserved, but circumstances have thus far prevented. We hope another year will not pass without something being done in that direction. We are pleased to say that our school-houses are generally in good repair, but as school property is extremely subject to accident, and as there are ever occuring exigencies which cannot be foreseen, we trust the same generous sentiment which has heretofore prevailed still exists, and that you will provide liberally to meet all necessary expenses.

During the past year a new school has been put in operation in the Union or Center Grammar school house. The crowded condition of two of our schools demanded relief in some way. After a careful consideration of the subject in several meetings of the committee, on June 1st, 1873, the committee decided to organize a new school, to be composed of the higher classes of the several schools, to commence with the fall term. One important object to be gained by the establishment of the new school was the partial grading of the several schools, reducing the number of classes as well as pupils, thus securing to each class and pupil more attention from the teacher. Another object the committee had in view was classifying the pupils in the several schools with reference to their entering the anticipated Howard Seminary.

In consequence of interruption by illness of teacher, and other circumstances, which might be named, the school has not attained that degree of success which the committee anticipated. Still we believe sufficient results have been obtained to warrant further trial. The only school not represented in the new school was Cochesett. The reason assigned for not attending was the distance. To successfully meet the demand of the times we would recommend that the sum of $3,500 be appropriated for the support of schools the ensuing year.

We would call the attention of the Town to the necessity of providing better accommodations for the South school. The school is now much too large for the room provided, or to be in charge of one teacher; with a prospect of continual increase. This matter

demands immediate action on the part of the town. We would recommend that measures be adopted to secure them an additional room suitable to accommodate at least fifty pupils,—thus giving them advantages equal with other parts of the town and in conformity with their prospective needs.

The number of persons in town between the ages of five and fifteen, as reported by the Assessors, is 341. Of this number, 17 reside in what is termed Beaver, and had the privilege of attending school in East Bridgewater.

For general information concerning schools, we refer you to the annexed Report of the Superintendent.

Respectfully submitted,

ISAAC HOWARD,
CYRUS LEONARD,
BENJ. PERKINS,
J. L. HAYWARD,
P. P. FIELD,
ELI WHEELER
J. B. PACKARD,

School Committee of West Bridgewater.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the School Committee of West Bridgewater:—

Gentlemen: Sickness during the last few weeks has prevented my presence at the close of most of the Winter schools, and also compels me to curtail my report beyond my design or inclination.

I have made about the usual number of visits during the year, which has given me an opportunity of ascertaining the condition of the several schools and also of estimating the value of the work accomplished.

I shall confine myself as usual to a general review of the year's work, believing that this is all that the Public demands and the best interests of the schools permit.

The majority of our schools have been in charge of experienced teachers, and the results accomplished are highly satisfactory. There have been instances of only partial success but none of absolute failure.

Parents can do much by their sympathy and support to encourage teachers in their arduous labors, but on the teacher *mainly*, depends success or failure. That teacher who enters the school-room disposed to cater to the whims and caprices of individuals, and trims her sails to catch the popular breeze and float with the popular current, has no just appreciation of the responsibility of her situation, and her efforts or rather want of effort will result only in the most disgraceful failure.

On the other hand, that teacher who goes intelligently and fearlessly to her work, pursuing the right because it is

right, inculcating truth because it is truth, will ultimately triumph. Her reward may be deferred, but will surely come. The recipients of such instruction can only appreciate it when their judgments are matured and they are required to grapple with the stern realities of life.

Then will their hearts flow with gratitude towards that teacher who planted the good seed.

Then will they delight to do honor to her who labored so wisely and so earnestly to fit them to act well their part in Life's great work.

The progress made in the several branches, generally deserves commendation. The increased attention which has been given to the reading exercises, by some of the teachers, has produced the most hopeful results, and the improvement made is apparent to the most casual observer. Map drawing has generally received the attention its importance demands, and the rapidity, accuracy and neatness with which maps of various states and countries are drawn upon the black-board, from memory, gives evidence of thorough instruction in the art.

Arithmetic, the favorite branch with most teachers, is perperhaps the most successfully taught. I feel it a duty, however, to utter a word of caution to teachers of young children. I am convinced that precocious children are required to grapple, too early, with difficult problems which require a too protracted effort of their reasoning powers.

I wish to call particular attention to the prevailing method of teaching grammar in our schools. Such a waste of precious time seems to me inexcusable, and demands a radical and speedy reform. What is grammar? Webster and Worcester define it, as the art of speaking and writing language correctly. Does the prevailing method of teaching Grammar, impart this art? I unhesitatingly answer, it does not. The great mass of pupils, fail to see the adaptation of the means to the end sought. How shall this art be imparted? By means of daily exercises in spoken and written language, under the direction of a competent instructor. When should the teaching of Grammar

commence? Spoken Grammar when the child begins to talk, written Grammer when the child begins to write.

The benefits accruing to the several schools from the organization of the Union school, renders its continuance desirable. In the several schools relieved of their first class, the progress of the remaining classes have corresponded with their increased opportunities, which, in some instances, have been nearly doubled.

The size of the South school demands another teacher and another room.

Although our school-rooms are not provided with the most approved means of ventilation, the thoughtful teacher can do much toward promoting the health and comfort of her pupils as well as her own. I have sometimes found on entering a school-room the windows on opposite sides lowered from a foot to eighteen inches, causing a strong current of air to blow directly upon the heads of the scholars. Is it surprising that sickness results from such thoughtless exposure? By lowering the windows on one side of the room only, from half an inch to an inch, a very good ventilation may be secured with little if any exposure. Every school-room should be provided with a thermometer by which the temperature of the room should be regulated.

Allow me in closing my report to thank your Board for its generous support of my efforts to promote the welfare of our schools.

Respectfully submitted,

CYRUS LEONARD, *Secretary.*

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.	Length of School in months.	Wages of Teachers per month.	Number of Pupils.	Average Attendance.	Per cent. of Attendance.	Number Pupils over 15 years of age.	No. Pupils under 5 yrs. of age.
Cochesett Grammar School.							
J. J. Prentiss, Spring,	2½	$62 50	26	22	86	5	
M. E. Gay, Fall,	2½	32 00	32	28	87	3	
" " Winter,	2 2-5	40 00	44	35	79	11	
Cochesett Primary School.							
Irene S. Wood, Spring,	2½	$36 00	48	40	83		2
" " " Fall,	2½	32 00	41	34	83		
" " " Winter,	3	32 00	41	30	74		
Centre School.							
Carrie Howard, Principal, M. L. Perkins, Assistant, } Spring	2½	$60 00	45	32	71	1	
Carrie Howard, Fall,	2½	32 00	47	36	77		
" " Winter,	3	32 00	44	32	73		
East School.							
Mary E. Hayward, Spring,	2½	$40 00	37	32	85	2	2
L. K. Richards, Fall,	2½	32 00	42	33	80		1
" " Winter,	3	32 00	34	26	76	1	
South School.							
Maggie L. Shea, Spring,	2½	$44 00	66	57	86	1	2
" " " Fall,	2½	40·00	60	51	87		1
Mary A. Shea, Winter,	3	40 00	52	47	90		2
North Centre School.							
Enna M. Richards, Spring,	2½	$32 00	27	24	89		
" " " Fall,	2½	32 00	25	22	88		2
" " " Winter,	3	32 00	25	22	88	1	
North School.							
Abbie E. Morey, Spring,	2½	$32 00	27	23	85		1
Wealthy A. Howland, Fall,	2½	32 00	26	23	88	1	
" " " Winter,	3	32 00	27	23	85		2
Jerusalem School.							
M. Louisa Mills, Spring,	2½	$32 00	27	23	85	1	1
" " " Fall,	2½	32 00	28	23	80	2	
" " " Winter,	3	32 00	25	19	75	2	
Union School.							
Marie L. Southwick, Fall,	2	$62 00	30	25	83	17	
Addie F. Matthews, Winter,	3	62 00	22	14	64	16	

H. W. Leach

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

OF THE TOWN OF

WEST BRIDGEWATER,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1, 1875.

BROCKTON, MASS.,
GAZETTE STEAM JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.
1875.

ANNUAL REPORTS

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REPORT OF SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

Agreeably with a vote passed at the last annual town meeting, the accounts of Receipts and Expenditures have been made up to the first of February, instead of March, as heretofore; making the year but eleven months.

All stocks in corporations, including banks, are taxed by the State, and therefore are not taxable by the Assessors of the town.

VALUATION,

As assessed May 1st, 1874.

Value of Real Estate,	$658,970
Value of Personal Estate,	212,500
Total,	$871,470

Number of	Polls taxed,	463.
"	Dwelling Houses,	343.
"	Acres of Land taxed,	9,764.
"	Cows taxed,	350.
"	Horses taxed,	281.

ASSESSMENTS.

State Tax,	$1,340 00
County Tax,	1,122 07
Town grant,	8,900 00
Overlayings,	45 98
Total,	$11,408 05

Rate of taxation, $12 on $1,000. Poll tax, $2.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

The following is a summary statement of the receipts and payments for the eleven months.

Balance in the treasury, March 1, 1874,	$3,708 54
Amount received since,	16,509 64
Total,	$20,218 18

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS.

The sums received were from the following sources :—

Tax Bills for 1874,	$11,408 05
From E. S. Copeland's estate,	129 95
Circus Company, for a License,	25 00
State, for burying a pauper,	10 00
State, for aid to Soldiers and their families,	531 40
Corporation tax,	397 56

From National Bank tax,	$843 58
State, Income of Massachusetts School Fund,	280 92
Six per cent on taxes for 1873, paid after Jan. 1, 1874,	119 40
Of O. S. Wilbur, for redemption of estate, sold for the taxes,	13 78
Loan from L. S. Packard,	100 00
Martha Howard,	400 00
J. Howard,	250 00
I. Howard,	500 00
D. Perkins,	100 00
Howard & Washburn,	1,400 00
Balance as above,	3,708 54
Total,	$20,218 18

PAYMENTS.

The sums disbursed during the eleven months were on the following accounts :—

For support of Schools,	$2,199 94
Repairs of School Property, books, and incidentals,	266 21
Repairs of highways, and clearing snow by Surveyors,	1,948 18
Appropriation for the road south of C. P. Brown's,	100 00
Repairing the bridge on Scotland road,	41 62
Widening the Swamp road toward Raynham,	436 77
State Aid,	485 00
State Tax,	1,340 00
County Tax,	1,122 07

For Support of Poor out of Almshouse,	$358 80
Abatement of Taxes,	48 20
Public lectures,	100 00
Town Hall,	75 00
Stocking Nippinnicket Pond with fish,	30 50
Printing,	50 00
Copying the valuation for Tax Commissioners,	6 60
Road Scraper,	140 45
Office rent,	15 00
Town Officers and Committees,	563 93
Stationery, Postage and other items,	6 96
Howard & Washburn's notes,	1,417 70
M. Howard's note,	406 00
J. Howard's note,	253 88
I. Howard's note,	505 83
D. Perkins' note,	101 50
L. S. Packard's note,	101 70
F. Dunbar, interest,	63 00
Superphosphate for Town Farm,	20 62
Salary of the Overseer of Town Farm,	550 00
Workmen,	819 89
Smithwork,	70 27
1 cow and calf,	65 00
1 horse, express wagon and harness,	100 00
1 horse cart,	85 00
1 cart harness and repairing harnesses,	26 25
Supplies for the Town Farm,	536 67
An allowance of 6 per cent on Tax Bills of 1874,	684 48
Gravel for Highway District No. 3,	25 60
Gravel for Highway District No. 5,	24 35
	$15,192 97

LIABILITIES AND UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS.

Amount of Notes against Feb. 1, 1875,	$3,574 50
Interest accrued thereon,	453 15
School Appropriation not drawn,	2,372 94
Appropriation for repairs of School Property not expended or not drawn,	197 27
Appropriation for road repairs not expended,	207 45
	$6,805 31

ASSETS.

Balance in the Treasury Feb. 1, 1875,	$5,025 21
Due for "State Aid" furnished,	523 00
Amount of Assets,	$5,548 21
Balance against the Town Feb. 1, 1875,	1,257 10
Amount as above,	$6,805 31

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Austin Packard, Town Clerk,	$33 17
Geo. M. Pratt, Treasurer,	150 00
James Howard, Selectman, Assessor, Overseer of Poor and Road Committee,	175 38
Davis Copeland, ditto,	94 63
Henry W. Leach, ditto,	37 50
S. N. Howard, ditto,	5 00
Cyrus Leonard, Superintendent of Schools,	55 00

Paid Eli Wheeler, Constable,	$7 75
Wm. J. Stanley, Sexton,	2 50
Auditing Committee,	3 00
	$563 93

SCHOOLS.

Balance in the Treasury March 1, 1874,	$1,291 70
Appropriation by the Town, for 1874,	3,000 00
Received from Massachusetts School Fund,	280 92
	$4,572 62

Drawn for the support of the Centre Schools,	$443 50
Cochesett Schools,	431 75
Jerusalem School,	201 75
North Centre School,	293 27
North School,	201 50
East School,	240 32
South School,	218 00
Beaver School,	169 85
Total,	$2,199 94

Balance in Treasury, Feb. 1, 1875,	$2,372 68
The Teachers of the Winter term of the several schools have not been paid; which, with some incidentals, will require about,	$1,060 00
And will leave a balance of School money of about	$1,312 68

REPAIRS OF SCHOOL PROPERTY AND INCIDENTALS.

Balance in the Treasury, March 1, 1874,	$263 48
Appropriation of 1874,	200 00
Total,	$463 48
Drawn from the Treasury for that use,	266 21
Balance in the Treasury, Feb. 1, 1875,	$197 27

HIGHWAYS.

Unexpended money for repairing Roads, in the Treasury, March 1, 1874,	$453 82
Appropriated for ordinary repair of Roads,	2,500 00
	$2,953 82

At the annual meeting, March, 1874, the Town voted that the highways and bridges therein be divided into seven districts, and put in charge of seven Surveyors, as in previous years.

The following schedule will show the name of the Surveyor, the sum appropriated, and the amount drawn from the Treasury for each district during the year.

District No. 1.

Horace Bartlett, Surveyor,	$448 89
Amount expended,	413 15
Balance,	$35 74

District No. 2.

H. W. Leach, Surveyor,	$341 55
Amount expended,	344 79
Overdrawn,	$3 24

District No. 3.

Erland Thayer, Surveyor,	$528 74
Amount expended,	492 65
Balance,	$36 09

District No. 4.

Davis Copeland, Surveyor,	$561 49
Amount expended,	480 16
Balance,	$81 33

District No. 5.

Eli Wheeler, Surveyor,	$301 15
Amount expended,	240 92
Balance,	$60 23

District No. 6.

A. L. Alger, Surveyor,	$451 58
Amount expended,	464 05
Overdrawn,	$12 47

DISTRICT NO. 7.

J. Q. Hartwell, Surveyor,	$320 42
Amount expended,	310 65
Balance,	$9 77

In addition to the sums raised for ordinary repairs, a special appropriation of $300 was made for Elm street, north of Charles Howard's corner; which was expended by the Agent employed at the Town Farm, with the men and teams under his charge. And the sum of $100 was raised for the Scotland road, south of C. P. Brown's corner, and expended by A. L. Alger.

After the above appropriations were put under contract we found that the bridge across the river, on the Scotland road, was in a dangerous condition. We obtained lumber and repaired it, at a cost of $41.62

For work on the Swamp Road towards Raynham, the Selectmen have paid to A. L. Alger, balance on last year's contract, $399.70; and towards an additional contract, not yet completed, $37.07. Total, $436.77.

The same arrangement in relation to the Town Farm, and Agent employed, and the teams kept there, has been continued this year as reported last year. And the force maintained there, have performed road work as follows:—

For Highway District No. 1,	$16 50
No. 2,	271 54
No. 3,	26 50
No. 4,	293 25
No. 6,	24 50
No. 7,	215 90
Total under direction of Surveyors of Highways,	$848 19

The special appropriation for Elm street,	$300 00
On the road laid out on petition of C. Reed and others,	60 75
Completion of the widening and grading of Matfield street,	246 75
On Copeland's street, as laid out by the County Commissioners,	1,444 63
Total amount of Road work,	$2,900 32
They have received for labor performed elsewhere,	65 36
	$2,965 68

TOWN FARM ACCOUNT.

Inventory of Personal Property at the Farm, as appraised February 1, 1875.

8 tons of English Hay,	$184 00
2 1-2 tons of Millett hay,	45 00
6 1-2 tons of Meadow hay,	78 00
2 Horses,	300 00
2 Oxen,	225 00
3 Cows,	135 00
3 Swine,	60 00
32 Fowls,	32 00
1 Ox Cart,	60 00
3 Horse Carts,	150 00

1 Express Wagon,	40 00
3 Cart Harnesses,	50 00
2 Common Harnesses,	45 00
Hay and wood riggings, wheels and other farming tools,	125 00
Grain and Flour,	10 00
100 lbs. Salt Pork,	15 00
65 lbs of Ham,	10 40
60 lbs. of Butter,	24 00
50 lbs. of Lard,	10 00
40 lbs. of Beef,	3 75
100 Bushels of Potatoes,	80 00
4 Bushels of Turnips,	3 00
2 1-2 bbls. of Apples,	5 00
Groceries,	5 00
Beds, Bedding, &c.,	70 00
Stoves and other Furniture,	87 00
Manure and Fertilizers,	120 00
Total,	$1,972 15
Inventory as appraised March 1, 1874,	1,764 89
Balance of Property in excess of 1874,	$207 26

The Farm or Overseer.

Dr.

To A. Howard, Salary for 11 mos., to Feb. 1, '75,	$550	00
To Cash paid to Workmen,	819	89
for Tools,	45	64
for Smithwork,	73	22
for Fencing Material,	5	36
for Seeds,	10	83
for Fertilizers,	20	62
for Flour,	131	00
for Grain,	559	56
for Meat and Fish,	167	79
for Groceries, Apples, Beans, Lard,	176	63
for Bedding,	28	66
for Wares and sundry items for the House,	51	66
for Clothing for the Boy and Girl,	50	00
for use of haying and other tools on the Farm,	25	00
for Cow and Calf,	65	00
for Horse, Wagon and Harness,	100	00
for 1 cart harness, and repairing harnesses,	26	25
for keeping oxen, away from the farm,	27	50
for 1 horse cart,	85	00
	$3,019	61

Cr.

By Cash received for Butter sold,		$191 63
	Calves "	54 06
	Pigs "	89 50
	Cow "	40 00
	Horse "	10 00
	Fowls "	9 76
	Eggs "	8 45
	Vegetables sold,	43 46
	Hay sold,	28 99
By Cash received from Tramps,		1 58
	for an Old Bill,	1 87
	for Board,	9 00
	for work done for individuals,	65 36
	for going with Hearse to 14 funerals,	35 00
	for going with Hearse out of town,	20 50
	for work done for Highway Surveyors,	848 19
	for work done on new road near the Center,	60 75
	for work done on Matfield St.,	246 75
	for work done on Elm St,	300 00
	for work done on Copeland St.,	1,444 63
Total Receipts and Credits,		$3,509 48
Excess of value of Personal Property,		207 26
Whole amount credited to Almshouse account,		$3,716 74
Expenses deducted,		3,019 61
Excess of Credits,		$697 13
Eleven months' interest on the Property,		315 89
Balance in favor of the Farm,		$381 24

To this balance should be added the cost of supporting a Pauper 21 weeks at $3 per week,	$63 00	
Keeping 61 tramps at 75 cents each,	$45 75	
Due for work on job not finished,	$20 00—	$128 75
Net Profit,		$509 99

We have two men besides the Overseer employed at the Farm now, and as there is not much that they can do, at this time of year, besides the road work, if February is not more favorable than the first part of the winter has been, they will not be expected to pay the running expenses. The foregoing account is made up for eleven months; the above balance of profit may be reduced by the closing month of the year.

Paupers.

During the eleven months, covered by this report, there has been at the Almshouse equal to one pauper twenty-one weeks. At the present time, we have no inmates.

There has also been sixty-one tramps entertained there.

POOR OUT OF THE ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for Michael Ryan at Taunton Hospital,	$210 60
Aid to Mrs. Polly Reed,	52 00
Aid to Mrs. Hannah Lothrop,	24 00
for Coffin for Mrs. Lucy Carr,	16 50
for Coffin for Thomas Fitzpatrick,	8 00
for Coffin for John Coughlan,	10 50
Aid to Mark Munday,	1 25
Total,	$322 85

We will recommend for the town to make the following appropriations for the ensuing year, as being sufficient to meet the present necessities, viz. :—

For Schools,	$3,000 00
repairing School Property,	300 00
repairing Highways,	2,500 00
completing the work on Copeland street,	500 00
support of the Poor,	500 00
Public Lectures,	100 00
Incidental expenses,	1,200 00
	$8,100 00

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES HOWARD,
DAVIS COPELAND,
HENRY W. LEACH,
Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor of the Town of West Bridgewater.

NOTE.—On page 15 the items "Going with the Hearse in town," and all the work done on the roads should be credited to the Overseer, instead of cash paid him.

LIST OF JURORS FOR 1875,

As prepared by the Selectmen of West Bridgewater.

Charles Atwell,
Wm. O. Alger,
Charles W. Bacon,
Horace Bartlett,
Caleb Copeland, Jr.,
Davis Copeland,
Lucius Dunbar,
James A. Fobes,
Josiah Q. Hartwell,
John L. Hayward,
Benjamin Howard,
Charles Howard,
Isaac Howard,
Henry W. Leach,
Charles N. Martin,
Henry S. Keith,
Benjamin Perkins,
Nahum Packard,
Geo. M. Pratt,
Shepherd L. Pratt,
Molbry A. Ripley,
George D. Ryder,
Joseph E. Ryder,
Eben C. Safford,
George T. Shaw,
Ephraim T. Snell,
Thomas Snell,
Charles C. Thayer,
Edward Tisdale,
Hiram G. Washburn,
Henry H. Whitman,
George Wilbur.

The Selectmen recommend that Guide Boards be maintained at or near the following named places :—

Joshua T. Ryder's,
Justin W. Richards',
Joseph Kingman's,
Lewis Ryder's,
Pine Hill Cemetery,
Charles Howard's,
West of Almeshouse,
Edmund Geary's,
Pardon Copeland's,
North Center school house,
Heman Copeland's,
Nahum Leonard's, 2,
J. Q. Hartwell's,
John Walker's, 2,
Molbry Ripley's,
James Alger's furnace,
Cyrus P. Brown's,
Joseph Alger's,
Barnabas Dunbar's,
Stillman W. Hersey's,
Dwelley Fobes',
Benjamin Howard's,
George Wilbar's,
John B. Holmes',
D. H. Baker's store,
Center Post Office,
Thomas Mackin's.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

MARRIAGES

Recorded in West Bridgewater in the year 1874.

No.	Date.		Names of Bridegrooms and Brides.
1	Jan.	1	Frederick Wilder and Lucretia A. Hayward.
2	Feb.	5	John E. Reeve and Caroline Shipman.
3	March	15	Simeon A. Dean and Lydia B. Shaw.
4	"	26	Edward T. Ripley and Carrie A. Copeland.
5	April	25	Wilton E. Pratt and Philena F. Gurney.
6	May	27	Charles W. Bacon and Caroline B. Keith.
7	July	1	Luther E. Turner and Emma W. Hayward.
8	"	12	Thomas W. Hayden and Harriet A. Smith.
9	Aug.	21	Henry Stone and Garaphelia B. Howard.
10	"	30	Joseph D. Packard and Emma M. Packard.
11	Sept.	6	Charles B. Gould and Evelyna A. Tinkham.
12	Oct.	26	Stephen Fryes and Almah F. Dickerson.
13	"	27	John M. Stetson and Ruth B. Swain.
14	Nov.	3	Martin V. B. Dunbar and Jane W. Keith.
15	"	18	Nahum Wasburn, Jr,. and Mary Reed.
16	Dec.	25	Cryus W. Alger and Abby E. Morse.

Notice of the intention of Marriage between the following persons has been recorded, but no certificate of their marriage has been returned to this town.

1	Nov.	12	Thomas Macken and Mary A. Daley.
2	Dec.	11	Edward W. Buttrick and Julia A. Martin.

DEATHS

Registered in West Bridgewater in the year 1874.

No.	Date.		Names of the Deceased.	Ys.	Ms.	Ds.	Disease or Cause of Death.
1	Jan.	16	John Savage.....	57	..	..	Heart Disease.
2		24	Lucy Carr.....	88	2	5	Old Age.
3		29	Polly K. Hayward.....	87	3	24	Old Age.
4	Feb.	8	Jacob Leonard.....	71	9	9	Typhoid Pneumonia.
5		15	Thomas Fitzpatrick.....	25	..	..	Strangulation.
6		24	Martin Hayward.....	90	8	9	Old Age.
7		26	Bertha L. Alger.....	..	2	17	Whooping Cough.
8	March	2	Ezra S. Copeland.....	38	5	3	Consumption.
9		7	Hannah Richards.....	77	7	19	Consumption.
10		18	Nicholas Bowe.....	47	9	..	Lung Fever.
11	May	9	Lydia H. Shaw.....	50	1	9	Paralysis.
12		29	Ann Davie.....	82	1	2	Old Age.
13	June	22	Sarah W. Alden..	39	1	17	Consumption.
14	July	14	Albert J. F. Perkins.....	1	1	1	Cholera Infantum.
15		20	Patty Bartlett.....	58	2	13	Apoplexy.
16		21	John Coughlan.....	50	..	..	Pneumonia.
17	Aug.	16	John Reeves.....	53	..	..	Consumption.
18	Sept.	20	Henrietta Fisher.....	..	3	20	Inflammation of Lungs.
19	Oct.	3	Nathan E. Keith..... ...	..	11	20	Cholera Infantum.
20		6	Carrie L. Snow.....	1	6	..	Whooping Cough.
21		16	Elbridge G. Hayward.....	54	1	26	Consumption.
22	Dec.	3	Saphronia Taylor.....	69	4	11	Cancer.

The number of births recorded in West Bridgewater in the year 1874, was 40.

AUSTIN PACKARD, *Town Clerk.*

TOWN MEETING.

The annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, the 1st day of March next, at one o'clock, P. M., to act upon the following articles :—

1st. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

2d. To hear and act upon the several reports of officers and committees of the town.

3d. To act on the list of Jurors reported by the Selectmen.

4th. To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year.

5th. To see if the town will accept the provisions of the 158th chapter of the Acts of 1871, which provides for the election of a Board of Road Commissioners, &c.

6th. To determine the manner of repairing Highways and Bridges the ensuing year.

7th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town the ensuing year, and make appropriations of the same.

8th. To see if the town will appropriate a sum, to defray, in part, the expenses of a course of public lectures.

9th. To see what measures the town will take to provide better accommodations for the South school, and make an appropriation for the same.

10th. To see if the town will determine upon some place on the river where the fish, called herrings, shall be taken, and take measures to protect said fish and fishery.

11th. To see if the town will accept the street leading from Center to High street, east of Friend W. Howard's and west of the Baptist church in Cochesett, as a Town road.

12th. To see what action the town will take in regard to roads which have been laid out within the limits thereof.

13th. To see if the town will appropriate the dividend accruing under the execution of the dog law, for the support of schools.

Annual Report of the School Committee

—OF THE—

TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER

For the Year commencing March, 1874.

Board of School Committee.

For One Year.

BENJAMIN PERKINS,
J. L. HAYWARD,
ISAAC HOWARD.

For Two Years.

P. P. FIELD,
W. H. JENNINGS.

For Three Years.

MISS M. A. THAYER.

ISAAC HOWARD, Chairman.
M. A. THAYER, Secretary and Superintendent.

In accordance with existing arrangements there will be three vacancies to fill, two for three years, one for two years ; the terms of Messrs. Perkins, Hayward and Howard expiring with the present year.

The following statistics show very nearly the school expenses for the year :—

CENTRE SCHOOLS.

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks, (Grammar depart't)	$320 00
" " (Primary depart't)	288 00
Fuel and preparing same, (Grammar department,)	41 25
" " (Primary depart't,)	18 25
Care of house and fires, (Grammar department,)	10 00
" " (Primary department.)	6 00
	$683 50

Cochesett Schools.

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks, (Grammar depart't)	$320 00
" " (Primary depart't)	288 00
Fuel and preparing same,	50 50
Care of house and fires,	10 00
	$668 50

East School,

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks,	$320 00
Fuel and preparing same,	33 50
Care of house,	5 00
	$358 50

Jerusalem School.

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks,	$288 00
Fuel and preparing same,	22 75
Care of house,	5 00
	$315 75

North School.

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks,	$288 00
Fuel and preparing same,	22 75
Care of house,	5 00
	$315 75

North Centre School.

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks,	$278 00
Fuel and preparing same,	25 18
Care of house,	5 00
	$308 18

SOUTH SCHOOL.

Wages of Teacher, 32 weeks,	$310 00
Fuel and preparing same,	20 37
Care of house,	5 00
	$335 37

There has been paid to East Bridgewater, for pupils attending school in that town, $169.85. Total expense of schools, $3,161.15.

Appropriation of 1874,	$3,000 00
Balance of former appropriation,	1,185 62
From State school fund for 1874,	280 92
Dividend under dog law, for 1874,	178 11
	$4,644 65
	3,161 15
Balance unexpended,	$1,483 50

Of the appropriations for repairs, improvements, and incidentals there has been expended for the several schools the past year as follows :—

Centre, for repairs and incidentals,	$18 40
Cochesett, for repairs and incidentals,	36 23
East, (not all reported,) for repairs and incidentals,	6 82
Jerusalem, for repairs and incidentals,	11 55
North, for repairs and incidentals,	7 12
North Centre, for repairs and incidentals,	10 37
South, for repairs and incidentals,	13 47
Cost of Well, Pump, Trough, &c., Centre School,	106 00
Mr. Goodrich's bill for slating,	42 90
Painting North School-house,	15 02
Painting North Centre School-house,	31 60
	$299 48

Balance of former appropriations as reported March 1st, 1874,	$266 98
Appropriation of 1874,	200 00
Received from sale of old stove,	5 00
	$471 98
	299 48
	$172 50

This balance is liable to be reduced by some small outstanding bills. There has been paid for exchange of school books, $54.85.

The East school-house needs a general repairing inside. The Cochesett house is also reported as needing one new floor. As we have no estimate of the cost of said repairs, we shall omit recommending any specific appropriation for repairs.

We anticipate no great additional expense of schools over last year, and accordingly recommend the Town to appropriate the same as heretofore, viz., $3,000.

The number of persons in town between the ages of five and fifteen, as reported by the Assessors, is 367. Of this number 19 reside in what is termed Beaver, and have the privilege of attending school in East Bridgewater.

The Committee find it their duty again to call the attention of the Town to the condition of the South school. Although the school is less crowded than for some time previous, still as we consider the cause not permanent, the needs remain the same. The Committee having this school in charge (together with the Centre Schools) have exerted themselves to the extent of their ability to put the school in practical working condition, and under the guidance of its present faithful and efficient teacher, Miss Dewyer, it is making very commendable progress. We have thus far found insurmountable obstacles in adapting a school to existing houses with their chance locations. Perhaps in

the near future the scene may change, when the *house* may have attractions sufficient for the occasion. We think the most practical and economical course the Town can pursue is to build a good house for a part of the South School. Should coming events prove one school sufficient for the locality, the old house may be disposed of without great sacrifice. The Committee have taken measures to have an article in the Warrant for the Annual Meeting, that the Town may act on the subject according to their best judgment.

For particular information concerning schools we refer you to the annexed report of the Superintendent of Schools, Miss Mary A. Thayer.

Respectfully submitted,

ISAAC HOWARD,
BENJAMIN PERKINS,
J. L. HAYWARD,
P. P. FIELD,
M. A. THAYER,
W. H. JENNINGS,
} *School Committee of West Bridgewater.*

On retiring from the School Committee, the Chairman would improve the opportunity to express his thanks to all who have served with him on the Board during the three years, for their co-operation and forbearance, hoping they will in future find some person more competent for the position who will be willing to serve in that capacity.

ISAAC HOWARD.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

Gentlemen of the School Committee:—

In endeavoring to present a summary of the condition of the Schools at the close of the past school year, the Superintendent would first call your attention to the subject of

ATTENDANCE.

The necessity for issuing the Report before the close of the schools, renders it impossible to give the attendance for the Winter term; but, judging from the appearance of the registers, it will be much lower than the average for the Summer and Fall terms.

The table of statistics at the close of the Report, embodies the facts in figures, so far as these two terms are concerned. But there is somewhat beyond and behind these figures, which bears more directly upon the actual condition of our schools than would be inferred by persons not immediately connected with them.

When the attendance of a school is given at 75 per cent, it means on the outside that 25 per cent of the pupils were virtually deprived of instruction. But this 25 per cent is variable in individuality, and figures show only part of the evil; they limit what in reality is general. The truth is, that of the 75 per cent attending school, not one pupil escapes a general degree of actual loss in school advantages through the delinquent 25 per cent. And here is the worst and most irreparable injury incident to irregular attendance. Each scholar in the class suffers

through absences from that class. All progress is so interwoven with harmony of action, that discordance, however individualized, is a direct lessening of aggregate force. Given an absentee, and more is given that the personal failure or forfeiture.

In affairs of the school, as well as of the nation, there is no such thing as individualism in the sense of limitation of consequences to the immediate personality of the actor. The true gain of one is the gain of all, and, if possible, yet more deeply rooted is the universality of loss.

Who can send these children to school? Unfortunately, the School Committee cannot; notwithstanding they are empowered to appoint truant officers. And, as our schools are at present conducted, punctuality in attendance is the vital leverage to the fulfilment of ordinary success. This question has been year after year presented to your consideration, and, through you, to the consideration of the parents of these children.

As the law stands, the School Committee have the authority to appoint truant officers, who shall inquire into all cases of absenteeism. The fact that we have no truant officers in the town has less connection with our percentage of non-attendance than might be supposed. To convict a child of truancy in a country town, is next to an impossibility. For the most confirmed cases of irregular attendance are directly due to parental encouragement; and hence, excuses most candid and reasonable are not wanting, whenever an investigation is attempted. Of these excuses, ill health takes the first rank, and next, that elastic conscientiousness which "cannot approve of the teacher."

The conscientiousness which does not enforce attendance upon the school because the teacher is deficient in qualifications or in tact, has no hesitation in subjecting children to her pernicious influence, provided they are willing to go to school!

Again, the case which has been known to keep children from the school for alleged ill health, did not extend to any sanitary precautions while at home! There is little danger here of confounding the exercise of rightful parental care, with the injudicious neglect instanced by these cases. The slip-shod attendance referred to, never results from oversight and care, but has its two-fold source in ignorance and thoughtlessness.

In the words of the law, "children having no lawful employment or business, not attending school, and growing up in ignorance," are liable to the charge of truancy. There are children in town who come under this class, temporarily at least, but are yet beyond the reach of any influence strong enough to make them participants in the benefits of our schools. It is more than doubtful if any law can be framed to reach cases fostered and sheltered by parental neglect, excepting that of compulsory attendance. Nothing less than a law like that of the German States can save these children from the purposeless future of an ill-directed childhood.

When parents are recreant to their duty, it remains for the State to discharge the trust. The future of national character is but an empty name till America becomes the Mother of her children,—and for strong-armed guidance, not for effeminate indulgence.

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL-WORK.

Five schools have been fortunate in retaining the same teachers throughout the year.

The teacher of the North School, Miss Wealthy Holmes, was transferred, at the beginning of the Winter term, to the Centre Primary, to fill the place vacated by the resignation of Miss C. Howard, in favor of a new sphere of duty.

The North School, for the Winter term, has been in charge of Miss Idella Stevens.

The school of the North Centre, was taught in the Spring by Miss Annie Clarke, followed by Miss Lucy Kingman in the Fall and Winter.

The South School, for several terms in charge of Miss Mary Shea, was resigned by her at the opening of the Fall term for a better position, and her place taken by Miss Mary Dewyer.

With the slight exception, that the first week in the Summer term of the Cochesett Grammar School was taught by Miss M. Gay, who resigned her position on account of a more lucrative situation elsewhere, the following schools have been taught the entire year by their respective teachers :—

CENTRE GRAMMAR, Miss Mary Lincoln.
COCHESETT GRAMMAR, Miss Hannah Dillingham.
COCHESETT PRIMARY, Miss Irene Wood.
EAST SCHOOL, Miss Edith Wheeler.
JERUSALEM SCHOOL, Miss Helen Dunbar.

Virtually, the schools of our town are all mixed schools. The Cochesett Grammar, and the two Primary Schools, are the nearest approaches that we have to graded schools ; and these are remote enough from any well classified grade.

The Centre Grammar School, at the opening of the Spring term, was the subject of much concern to the Committee. From a variety of causes it was completely disorganized. Matters were complicated by the necessity of introducing a class of scholars from the South School, on account of insufficient accommodations there. A class was also sent in from the Primary department. These two new classes, with nine scholars who had attended the school during the Winter term, made a most inharmonious combination. The Committee well knew that any teacher taking

this school, would labor under great disadvantages. There were at the outset, three schools in one, with little or no disposition to fraternize.

As one of the Committee in charge, the Superintendent would express acknowledgment of the zeal and comprehensive effort which wrested order from disorder, and won harmony from discord.

The general condition of the schools is better than at the opening of the year. Those having the same teacher for the three consecutive terms, have had better chances for progress, than those schools in which a change of teachers has been necessary. But the changes have been attended with far less injury than is often the case.

The discipline as a whole has been good. The schools for which most anxiety was felt, on account of the youthfulness of the teachers, take the first rank in this respect.

In mixed schools there is no cause for complaint of that conformity which dwarfs while it shapes. Any system possible in schools of this grade, must be flexible in nature, as well as in application. The attendant danger is loss of that vitalizing harmony in aim, which should underlie and rule the whole. Surface harmony of action is far more easy of attainment, but its associate evil, routine at the expense of life, is quite as detrimental in result as that more apparent loss of power, through want of systematic progress.

The practice of commenting upon individual schools, more rare now than formerly, naturally gave rise to much personal feeling, and the course wisely fell into disfavor. Yet the Superintendent proposes to infringe upon the discretionary limits of custom, so far as to mention certain very pleasing instances of successful methods of teaching; thoroughly assured that the teachers will bring no accusation of favoritism, but will be glad that such examples can be cited.

Indistinct utterance is so common in our schools that any successful effort in overcoming this defect deserve especial attention.

In the Centre Primary, distinct enunciation has been for several terms a marked feature. Miss Howard for three years worked with well directed persistence, and her efforts were justly crowned with success. While the school was in her care, we urged teachers to visit it as worthy of their imitation in this direction. No clipping of the final consonants was allowed, and obscure sounds always had rightful recognition.

The teacher did not confine her instruction to the classes in reading, as sometimes is unwisely done. She insisted upon good enunciation in every recitation. This required the most scrupulous watchfulness, as well as steady drill in class exercises, for defects of this nature can be conquered only by unrelaxing vigilance.

The Centre Grammar School to-day shows, in at least one of its classes, the effect of this early training.

At the present time, the Centre Grammar ranks first in reading. But this fact is not to be attributed to superiority of material, but to discriminating instruction in both departments.

WRITING.

In Miss Peabody's "*Record of a School*," she says it was Mr. Alcott's experience, that in writing, it was much better to begin with copying print, as it was sure to produce in the end a more distinct and legible hand.

The fact that much printing has been done by the younger children for the past year, may in part explain the great improvement in the appearance of the writing books. But we believe this is chiefly due to the perseverance of the teachers. The practice in the written exercises, has also proved beneficial, since, with rare exceptions, pupils take

great care to write as legibly and as handsomely as they can.

The schools exhibiting the most marked improvement for the year, are the Centre Grammar, the East and South. The others, with perhaps one exception, have improved, but in a less noticeable degree.

In both Primary schools the books are very neatly written considering the age of the pupils.

The Primer classes, in the East and Jerusalem schools, illustrate the happy adaptation of natural methods in teaching children to think and to express thought.

A visitor, not witnessing the beginning of the work, would now say, "What bright children!" But it is not so much exceptional native talent, as wise teaching, that has made these classes models for imitation.

In the East School great attention has been paid to distinct utterance. This is the first noticeable feature in the reading. The children read slowly, but with a degree of distinctness that older classes are much longer in attaining. Next to the vocal training, comes the careful word study, which has done for these children what all instruction unfortunately does not do, inasmuch as it has quickened their minds.

Every new word, found either in the reading or the spelling lesson, is brought into the children's thought, and made their own, through its use by them in simple sentences. The teacher talks with her class about these words until they really know something of them, and latent ideas are so wakened and stimulated, that the reading lesson becomes a positive delight. The radiant faces which they bring to the class bear emphatic witness that as soon as all teaching conforms itself to nature, all learning will become delightful.

These children have been taught printing, and now at

the end of their third term have begun to print sentences embodying such words as their teacher may give them. They have also been taught to count, and rejoice in sundry acquirements satisfactory to such young people, in the way of spelling their own names, and astonishing visitors by their knowledge in town and state affairs. But on these points we lay no stress, as education, primarily, is a drawing forth, and the inversion of the natural order produces merely short-lived surface results.

We wish to call attention to the method pursued in the reading. We have heard children of the same age read far more glibly. We know of children who memorize more easily, but we know of none in the schools whose thought is more active, and who have greater capacity of using thought in connection with their school work.

We wish to give a part of the actual class work in one lesson, accessory to the reading. The words *mouse*, *boots*, *candy* and *thanks*, were printed on the black-board for the spelling lesson, and at recitation the children were expected to be ready to tell the teacher something about each. There are four pupils in the class, ages ranging from five to six years. Each scholar usually gives several sentences for every word. From among those given we selected the following as average specimens:—

"I have got hold of the mouse by the tail."

"Boots cost a good deal of money."

"Molasses candy keeps me from getting cold."

"That boy did not thank the man for a sleigh-ride."

At Jerusalem, the class were taught to read by the word method; and the teacher made this more attractive to her pupils by drawing on the board an object, and asking the class for its name; printing this carefully, then asking the children to find the word in their books.

The class were taught in this way to fix in their minds all words by sight. Then the teacher by questions and sug-

gestions drew out their ideas, and helping them to correct forms of expression, printed these below the name of the object drawn. New words which came in were dwelt upon and reviewed, until the children readily recognized them either on the board or in their books. Other classes in town have been taught by the word method, but the advantage of illustrations from the board accelerates both progress and interest.

The same class, in addition to printing, were taught the capital and small script letters. Also counting, and simple combinations in numbers, by the use of beans.

We do not stop here because there are no other classes in town worthy of commendation. Each school has excellencies, which, did space permit, we would gladly mention. The Primer classes in the North, and North Centre schools are highly creditable classes, and in some respects fully equal to these to which your especial attention has been called. In the Centre Primary, the method of the teacher for the Winter term has been almost identical with that pursued in the East School. But as an illustration, the work of a year is a better test of the actual merit of the system employed, than the work of one term, or even of two terms. Both the East and the school at Jerusalem are mixed schools, and it is well worth while to measure what may be accomplished in schools of this grade by carefully shaping the method of instruction so that it shall aid, and not thwart Nature. It may seem a slight matter to illustrate in detail, but the underlying principle is one which teachers cannot afford to overlook. To start the little children right is half the battle. Yea, it is the first fruits of victory itself. The child's mind is marvellous in receptivity, but it must receive as the flower drinks the dew, in Nature's way, which is God's way,—not always our way, nor yet the way of the text books.

SCHOOL STUDIES.

No definite changes have been made in the course of study pursued, beyond such as were incidental to the introduction of new Readers and the Test Exercises. We have urged in all cases simple methods, and recognition of mental growth as the ultimate aim of all teaching.

Personally, we should be glad to take the study of Grammar, as found in the text books, out of our school course. Time spent on it is worse than wasted; for accomplishing little in the direction of its professed aim, it does blunt the natural acumen of the child's mind. Very few children are capable of assimilating the momentous fact, that "The subject is the object representing that of which something is said." But thereafter, when classes come upon propositions with subjects, which certainly to their minds are not names of objects, it becomes necessary to show them the beautiful truth that an object of thought in the mind, is one with the thought of an object. At this point lucidity and luminosity join hands and modestly retire from the grammatical field.

If inward conviction, among the majority of teachers, had candid expression, there would be but one verdict as to the utter worthlessness of this study, as it is now presented to the children of our Common schools.

The study of Grammar, in its present condition, is merely a farce consecrated by precedent. It will not bear the test of that incisive question: "What is its use?"

The more truly cultured our teachers are, the more helpless they feel to meet this problem according to its old time solution.

What then shall lift them to the requirements of the occasion? Nothing less than the divine inspiration of that iron-handed genius, which shall crush the whole baseless structure of grammatical theorizing, and create anew from the broad foundation of Truth!

But this gift of the gods is rare, and the mass of teachers are left with the ineffectual knowledge of misdirected effort and misspent time, in attempting to shape this study to the needs or the comprehension of their pupils. And yet, it would be considered, by many, a seditious and dangerous doctrine that urged the suspension of Grammar from the course of study prescribed for the common schools. While all of Grammar that is of any significance to pupils should be properly taught in connection with Reading and Composition.

In our schools, we have suggested the oral presentation of the subject, as far as practicable, and with few exceptions, this method has been adopted. But from the nature of the study, marked success cannot be claimed, if development of mental capacity be the criterion.

Next to Grammar, the study of Arithmetic is rendered in a degree unprofitable through indiscriminating methods of teaching.

It is an undeniable fact that scholars do not work well out of the book. This proves that they do not think well, for thought is not dependent upon books. Scholars who can explain an arithmetical process, step by step, with great accuracy and precision, are wholly at fault with a problem of the same nature stated in different terms. Showing that under the apparent clearness, there is a muddled residuum of uncertainty.

There is such a thing as smothering ideas in words, and it is to be feared the verbose explanations of the present day are doing this. It is not that too much is done, but the wrong thing is done; and in the substitution of artificial light for the true, scholars are in danger of becoming explanation blind.

The folly seems patent of presenting a subject to children, in the exact form it is given to maturer minds in

the higher grade of schools, yet teachers not unfrequently make this direct transfer. And just here lies ambushed a cause for the failure of much earnest effort, not only in Arithmetic, but in other studies.

A child's thought is susceptible of only daintiest handling. It will not bear a hurried clothing in words The mental effort to retain the words will almost invariably annihilate the thought, and will entirely arrest generative power. Comprehension must grow as the child works, and in the primary stages, work must be chiefly imitative. Statement of knowledge, or of thought, can only come after it is consciously the child's own. The reasoning faculty is so far behind the perceptive, in childhood, that any attempt to unduly force the one, menaces the very life of the other.

When explanations follow the natural order they become helps to conscious thought, but too often they precede thought germination, and destroy what words are powerless to create.

Better than this devastating flood of words, was the stern silence of the school-master of the olden time; teaching a quality of hard won self-reliance, wrenched from the clenched hand of unyielding necessity. True, such teaching did not aid, did not foster, but at the same time it did not enervate. And to be let alone is not always the worst of evils.

We commend the serious consideration of this question to teachers. Work with, and not against nature. In the developement of thought, respect the thought; reverently wait on it, acknowledging the divine sequence of growth. Do this, and fewer "stupid" children will be millstones about your necks, and fewer brilliant scholars will collapse before the practical demands of life.

READING.

The introduction of Monroe's Readers in place of Hilliard's is a satisfactory change, and teachers basing their work upon Prof. Monroe's suggestions, have inaugurated the reform in reading, which the introduction of these books aimed to establish.

The Committee did not decide to change the Readers solely because Hilliard's series had become monotonously familiar, but the chief reason for the change was dependent upon the teachers for effective exposition.

Monroe's Readers embodied the most cultured thought of the day upon the subject of which they were the exponents. They contained most valuable and practical suggestions regarding the use of the vocal organs. But what would this avail, if teachers ignored these suggestions, especially designed to insure the profitable use of the books? Duty compels us to protest against that negligence, which in some cases, has failed to use these readers as they were intended to be used, and as the Committee have a right to demand.

We are forced to believe, that in some instances, the prefacing remarks, which are the key to the successful use of the books, have not even been read. Our judgment is based on results. Comparatively little can be taught from books on such a subject as vocal culture, but illustrations and examples for practice are given throughout the series, which, judiciously moulded to individual needs, could not fail to secure distinctness of enunciation, at least.

And yet, we still find children reading with motionless jaws and lips, with a nasal twang and monotonous drawl, that go far to prove that new Readers are not the sole requisite to good reading.

The most noticeable faults in reading, in our schools, may be classed under three heads:—

1. Bad tone.
2. Indistinctness.
3. Mechanical reading.

Reading in the absolute is word-culture, but it has so long borne the degenerate fame of word-calling, that any attempt toward a truer and wider interpretation of its significance is comparatively rare, in the popular methods of teaching.

Reading considered as word-calling, has two glaring defects, and when we pass beyond this limit, to the field of word-culture, a third offence appears in the form of automatic reading. It is a mistake to require scholars to read like parrots after the teacher, without first giving them an idea of what reading means. It is waste of time to read to a class to any great extent, before they are prepared to hear. Give them a foundation to work on, a foundation to read from. And this can only be done by thorough and daily practice in consonant and vowel sounds. Securing all qualities of tone and pitch by vowel practice and word practice; and then scholars are ready to profit by examples.

Year after year, from the Primer to the First Class Book, pupils are treated like dummies. They are told what to do year in and out, but how rarely are they taught how to do it! The best readers under such mistaken training are the children having greatest imitative faculty, and by no means those having minds or voices most susceptible of culture.

To break up mechanical reading there must be supplied in its place intelligent reading. Children do not talk mechanically because the words which they use mean something to them.

No word in reading which cannot be used understandingly by scholars, ought to pass until it has been made their own by its actual use in sentences. Introduce the word in its varying uses, and give its synonymes, one or

more of which may already be in the vocabulary of the pupil.

By making reading language-study, as well as voice-culture, no chance is left for monotonous drawling to creep in; and this offers the only sure remedy for that apathetic mouthing of words, which has its source in mental stagnation.

TEST EXERCISES.

At the commencement of the past school year, the following notice was put into the hands of the teachers:—

1. Teachers are expected to prepare for every two weeks of school a set of Review or Test Questions, covering the topics studied during this time, for all classes qualified to answer such questions in writing.

Pupils will not receive previous notification of the days on which these tests shall be taken.

Teachers will instruct pupils to find their own percentage of scholarship.

The teacher will ascertain the percentage of each class, and, at the close of the school term, the average percentage of each class, and report the same to the Superintendent.

The number of questions in any test shall not exceed fourteen.

2. Teachers in the Primary Schools, and of Primary Scholars in the Mixed Schools, will have daily exercises in sentence-making, and will insist upon neat and legible printing or writing of such sentences upon paper, slates, or black-board.

3. In teaching Reading, Teachers are requested to follow as nearly as may be Prof. Monroe's suggestions prefacing each Reader, and so far as practicable have daily class exercises in consonant and vowel sounds, separately, and combined in sound-spelling.

Attention will also be given to defining words, and pupils required to illustrate the use of words which they define, in sentences of their own.

4. An exercise in Mental Arithmetic from Walton's Charts, is expected daily in all the schools.

No other way was seen to reach certain great defects in the schools.

The system of tests has its side of disadvantages, but on the other hand the evils which it will counteract, will overbalance its possible imperfections. By previous experiments it was made apparent that not one pupil in ten could state an intelligible answer in writing, to a question involving anything in the reply beyond the simplest proposition.

In oral recitation, pupils might do comparatively well, under the personal magnetism of the teacher; remove that and no capacity for statement remained,—chiefly from lack of self-reliance. Teachers are props, consciously or unconsciously as the case may be, and from too much, and too long continued propping, the power of standing alone is lost.

Before any real progress can be made, a basis must exist to work on. Before children can express ideas, the consciousness that they have ideas of their own to express, must be cultivated.

The tests were introduced in the hope of promoting self-reliance, as well as for their direct influence toward raising the work of the schools to a higher standard of accuracy.

And apart from the added thoroughness, and the stimulus to thought, which was hoped might come from these exercises, another reason which made their introduction desirable, existed in the eventual establishment of a High School in our town.

The classification of our schools is such that systematic

action is not attainable in a very high degree, but there can be a concerted aim for thoroughness, and the test work can be in all instances genuine work. The standard of admission for the first classes of the High School will be necessarily low, but that will not imply a depreciation in accuracy of acquirement.

Mixed schools have as good chances for thoroughness as graded schools; and it is this very quality which the tests should advance, and to do this, the questions must be chosen with an aim beyond the percentage of correct answers. The true value of a test is never to be estimated by its percentage, but by the amount and quality of thought called out by it. We are always sorry to find a percentage ranging too high. It hints at tests so nicely fitted to the groove of mechanical memorizing that they thwart the purpose of their introduction. It is not desirable to cultivate the faculty of memorizing when it must be done at the expense of the power to think. Over every school-room door these words should be emblazoned,—"TEACH THESE CHILDREN TO THINK."

It is true that children trained to memorizing will make showy returns. But what, after all, is cramming worth? Just as soon as life brings the thinking and reasoning powers into action, all that is foreign and superficial to the mind will fall away. And the greater part of the time spent within the school-house doors is barren of fruition. Teach children to think at the outset,—they will accumulate bare facts less rapidly, but, assimilating as they accumulate, they will gain what time cannot take away. It is of comparatively little moment whether children memorize readily or not,—and yet, it is to the cultivation of this gift that educational efforts are chiefly addressed! And to what end? If teachers would but seriously ask themselves, to what end? To meet the public demands? Who shall lead the way in shaping the public demand to truer ends?

Are teachers knowingly to give stones in place of bread? Surely it is a painful travesty when knowledge panders to ignorance, and insight to blindness!

In the Teachers' Reports of the year's work to the Superintendent, the percentage of the test exercises for each term is given. This percentage should mean something for individual schools, but any comparison of results on this ground would be an injustice to all. The work does not admit of any such narrow limitations. Yet it does admit of inspection from the side of the Teachers' Reports not directly relating to the percentage, as the following quotations will show.

Miss Lincoln, of the Centre Grammar Schools, says:—"Comparing the written exercises of the present term with those of the first term of the school year, I find a decided improvement in penmanship, and in the general arrangement of the work. But the improvement in another direction is even more noticeable, and that is, in the expression of thought. The pupils have gained much in ability to express their thoughts clearly and definitely. In this direction the written exercises have been of great benefit." In this school eighteen scholars take written tests.

Miss Dillingham, of the Cochesett Grammar School, writes:—"In comparing the tests of the present, with those of the past two terms, I notice a marked improvement, not only in the writing and spelling of words, but also in concise and comprehensive answers." Twenty pupils take the written exercises in this school.

In the East School sixteen scholars take tests; the majority being younger, as well as less advanced, than the pupils in either of the Grammar schools. Miss Wheeler, in her Report, says:—"The practice of having written tests causes a more thorough preparation of the lessons, and excites emulation among the pupils. There is great improvement in the tests written, not only that which would natu-

rally result from practice, but in the knowledge of the subjects studied."

Reports from the North Centre and Jerusalem schools have not yet been received.

In the North and South Schools little has been done in this exercise, beyond the preparatory work of sentence-making, owing to the small number of pupils qualified for advantageous progress in this direction.

In the two Primary schools more marked progress has been made in sentence-making than in the other schools, for the reason that the teachers of these schools, had fewer demands upon their time and attention from a multiplicity of classes.

In the Centre Primary, in charge of Miss Howard, during the Spring and Fall terms the work progressed most satisfactorily. Beginning with the simplest union of words in the expression of ideas, the uses of capital letters and punctuation were taught. Miss Holmes, the present teacher of this school, has very successfully carried on what Miss Howard began. In her Report she says:—"Sentence-making is of great value in the school for several reasons. It teaches children to express properly thoughts they may have about things they daily see, and incites thought. It helps children to learn to spell correctly. 'Please tell me how to spell this word,' is the appeal from all quarters. It teaches use of capital letters. This practice is a help to the teacher, as it enables her to judge of the child's knowledge, and of his ability to express to others that knowledge."

In a visit to the Cochesett Primary during the Fall term, the Superintendent asked the boys to write or print for her four things they knew about Hawks, Crows and Blue-jays, and the girls were to tell what they knew about Doll, Doves and Kittens. They were told that four sentences on each of the subjects mentioned would be sufficient, unless they desired to say more. Their papers were

to be given to the Superintendent, with no previous correction or supervision by the teacher. Out of the fifteen exercises brought in, varying in length from one page to two pages of note paper, seven words were misspelled, inclusive of three which were wrongly used,—"*their*" for "*there*," and the reverse. It was the first time these children had practiced the expression of thought in consecutive sentences, and with but one exception the connection was natural and harmonious. In other schools the defects in spelling have been more noticeable, and, with the exception of the Centre Primary, the diction has not been as good. In most instances, this study of the use of words, so far as it has gone, has been wholly free from routine. It is true that it has been too much confined to the younger classes; and the many doors which it opens are as yet but half apprehended. But its results, albeit they are somewhat meagre, are so far encouraging that we believe all teachers must acknowledge the stimulus it brings to mental growth. Any exercise which helps to quicken the observation, and at the same time give its apprehension outer expression, leads directly to the fulfilment of the only legitimate aim of instruction.

TO TEACHERS.

The Superintendent wishes to thank the teachers for their cheerful co-operation in introducing the Test Exercises and the exercises in sentence-making, as well as more thorough methods of teaching Reading. The ultimate success of such experiments rests almost wholly with the teachers, and in this instance a most unselfish zeal was brought to the work, notwithstanding the increasing inroads it made upon the time out of school hours.

This harmonious and enthusiastic spirit has been the spontaneous outflow of individual resolve to do the best work possible for the children. So universal has been this

spirit, and so far removed from any narrow aim of personal achievement, that the Superintendent is bound to grateful recognition of its vitalizing influence.

But, beyond commendation, unvoiced, silent, and so elusive in its fineness that it may not be shaped in words, is that side of the teachers' work for which we have no measure. It is the somewhat beyond the outer expression, but always in proportion to the completeness of the one do we find the fullness of the other. It has recognition, though nameless; it is success, though beyond compass and estimate. If any have unhappily missed this distinctive mark of their high calling, they have missed the Reality of their work.

In conclusion, we wish to quote from the Report for the year 1873, of the Superintendent of the New Bedford schools, Henry F. Harrington, one of our most progressive educators. His reports, in liberated thought, and in suggestiveness, are of greater value to teachers than the combined folios of educational driftwood afloat throughout the country. We choose his opening words on the training of youth, as containing the key to much dissatisfaction, and to much actual loss of power which attends the teacher's work.

To distinguish the false demand, and bend the whole energy to meet the real need of the occasion; to maintain singleness of purpose amid conflicting claims, would greatly simplify the labors of teachers, and the duties of the School Committee. It is to the legitimate demand and to the actual necessity, that Mr. Harrington gives recognition when he writes:—

"The training of youth is divisible into three Courses; which, though having many things in common, and sometimes losing their individuality by combination along the same channels of action, are so radically distinct in principle, method, and purpose as to result in confusion and dis-

appointment when their distinctive attributes and conditions are disregarded. And to this disregard is to be attributed a large majority of the indistinct conceptions, the vague expectations, and the impracticable specifics which restlessly and noisily follow up the work of our schools. These three Courses are:

1. First: ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTION; such a training as will secure to the children the mastery over the general instruments of future cultivation; such as language, figures, the relations of numbers, the organs of speech and song, the pen and the pencil.

2. Second: INTELLECTUAL INSTRUCTION; such a training as will secure to the children the largest possible amount of knowledge.

3. Third: MENTAL CULTURE; such a training as will educate the mind in the most thorough and perfect manner; developing the faculties into a condition of most effective power by a protracted process of systematic and orderly discipline."

Respectfully submitted,

MARY A. THAYER.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

NAMES OF TEACHERS.	Length of School in Months.	Wages of Teacher per month.	Number of Pupils.	Average attendance.	Percentage of attendance.	Different Pupils during year.
Cochesett, (Grammar Department.)						
Melissa Gay, one week, } Summer.						
Hannah Dillingham, nine weeks, } Summer.	2½	$40 00	34	30	.89	
" " Fall,	2½	40 00	34	30	.89	
" " Winter,	3	40 00	37			44
Cochesett, (Primary Department.)						
Irene S. Wood, Summer,	2½	$36 00	42	34	.82	
" " " Fall,	2½	36 00	49	43	.87	
" " " Winter,	3	36 00	48			58
Centre School, (Grammar Department.)						
Mary L. Lincoln, Summer,	2½	$40 00	33	27	.81	
" " " Fall,	2½	40 00	27	20	.74	
" " " Winter,	3	40 00	20			41
Centre School, (Primary Department.)						
Caroline Howard, Summer,	2½	$36 00	34	28	.82	
" " Fall,	2½	36 00	41	34	.83	
Wealthy A. Holmes, Winter,	3	36 00	36			41
North School.						
Wealthy A. Holmes, Summer,	2½	$36 00	30	26	.86	
" " " Fall,	2½	36 00	34	29	.87	
Idella M. Stevens, Winter,	3	36 00	29			35
North Centre School.						
Annie M. Clark, Summer,	2½	$32 00	23	19	.82	
Lucy W. Kingman, Fall,	2½	36 00	22	18	.81	
" " " Winter	3	36 00	24			30
South School.						
Mary A. Shea, Summer,	2½	$40 00	51	46	.82	
Mary A. Dewyer, Fall,	2½	36 00	60	53	.88	
" " " Winter,	3	40 00	52			65
East School.						
Edith Wheeler, Summer,	2½	$40 00	29	25	.86	
" " Fall,	2½	40 00	31	27	.88	
" " Winter,	3	40 00	31			36
Jerusalem School.						
Helen S. Dunbar, Summer,	2½	$36 00	27	20	.74	
" " " Fall,	2½	36 00	22	16	.73	
" " " Winter,	3	36 00	23			29

None of the Schools closed.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

OF THE TOWN OF

West Bridgewater,

FOR THE

Year Ending Feb. 1, 1876

ABINGTON:
PRESS OF C. FRANKLIN DAVID, COR. OF WASHINGTON & ROCKLAND STS.
PLYMOUTH COUNTY JOURNAL OFFICE.
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REPORT OF SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The following report, showing the Receipts and Expenditures of the town, for the year ending February 1, 1876, and the Liabilities and Assets of the town at said date, is respectfully submitted.

VALUATION,

As assessed May 1st, 1875.

Value of Real Estate,	$671,290
Value of Personal Estate,	213,979
Total,	$885,269

Number of Polls taxed,	466
" Dwelling Houses taxed,	349
" Acres of Land "	9,876

Number of Cows	"	419
" Horses,	"	282

ASSESSMENTS.

State Tax,	$1,340 00
County Tax,	1,122 07
Town grant,	11,200 00
Overlayings,	100 04
Total,	$13,762 11

Rate of taxation, $14 50 on $1,000. Poll tax, $2.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

A summary statement of receipts.

Balance in the treasury, February 1, 1875,	$5,025 21
Amount received since,	
Total,	$

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS.

The sums received were from the following sources:—

Tax Bills for 1875,	$13,762 11
Balance of corporation tax for 1874, from State,	39 51
A dividend from the Dog tax, of 1874, from County,	178 11
A stone sold,	5 00
For a large bridge stone,	10 00
From a loan on town notes,	3,000 00
" State Treasurer, for aid to soldiers and their families,	564 53
From State Treasurer, corporation tax for 1875,	377 17
" " " Bank tax for 1875,	807 92
" " " from Mass. School Fund,	273 39
For oxen sold at the town farm,	200 00
A discount on a bill of school books,	4 00
Of city of Cambridge for support of Ellen Dixon,	24 00
Of town of Falmouth, for aid to Elijah Baxter,	10 00
Six per cent on 1874 taxes, collected after Jan. 1, 1875	108 68
	$19,364 42

PAYMENTS.

The treasurer has paid the following sums:—

State Tax,	$1,340 00
County Tax,	1,122 07
State Aid,	436 00
Rent of Town Hall,	75 00
Office Rent,	15 00
Four bank notes,	3,000 00
Interest on the same,	28 68
F. Dunbar's note and interest,	1,128 75
For new school house in South district, including charges of the building committee,	1,620 33
repairing school houses and school property,	730 68
support of schools,	3,177 25
printing reports and advertisements,	78 78
Town officers and committees,	598 49
Salary of the overseer of the town farm,	600 00
For stationery, postage, express, blank books and other items,	18 95
For workmen at the town farm,	569 34
smith work,	53 79
clothing for the boy and girl at town farm,	75 00
tools and the use of tools at the farm,	43 85
oxen, horse and other stock at the farm,	317 50
supplies for the town farm,	647 49
support of the poor out of the Almshouse,	479 80
repairs of the roads and bridges,	918 19

For bridge stone on Copeland street,	3 50
grading the Depot Hill &c., on Centre street,	25 50
gravel purchased for road repairs,	51 97
widening the Swamp road on Lincoln street,	25 00
Steam fire proof safe for the treasurers use,	90 00
purchasing Ed. Thompson's estate, for payment of taxes,	80 57
To Wm. H. Osborne for services with the Fish Com.	8 95
A. E. Lucas, for service in proving State Aid claims,	6 00
L. G. Howard, for an axletree, in 1873,	2 25
Trustees of Howard School Fund for laying drain pipe across River street, and other work in 1873,	40 00
For abatement of taxes,	126 75
An allowance of six per cent, on tax bills of 1875,	825 72
	$18,361 15

LIABILITIES AND UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS.

Notes and interest due the Soldiers' Monument Association, Feb. 1, 1876,	$3,155 29

Appropriation for schools, not drawn,	2,646 93
Appropriation for repairing roads, not drawn,	392 14
To meet a contract on Swamp road, about,	170 00
	$6,364 36

ASSETS.

Balance in the Treasury, Feb. 1, 1876,	$6,032 18
Due for State Aid furnished,	462 00
Due from the city of Cambridge,	46 92
	$6,541 10
Balance in favor of the town above its known liabilities,	$176 74

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Austin Packard, Town Clerk,	$36 59
James Howard, Selectman, Assessor, Overseer of Poor and Road Com.	150 00
for use of horse and carriage,	2 75
Henry W. Leach, Selectman, Assessor, &c.,	76 50
Caleb Copeland Jr., ditto,	10 00

Paid Davis Copeland, Selectman, Assessor, &c.,	20 00
" " for use of horse and carriage,	3 50
Mary A. Thayer, Superintendent of schools,	123 65
Geo. M. Pratt, Town Treasurer,	150 00
Eli Wheeler, Constable,	9 50
Lyon and Shaw, sextons,	12 00
Auditors of Accounts,	4 00
	$598 49

SCHOOLS.

Balance in the Treasury, Feb. 1, 1875,	$2,372 68
Appropriation by the town for 1875,	3,000 00
Received from Mass. School Fund,	273 39
" a dividend of the Dog Tax, of 1874,	178 11
	$5,824 18
Drawn for the support of schools during the year ending February 1, 1876,	$3177 25
Leaving a balance in the Treasury of	$2,646 93

REPAIRS OF SCHOOL PROPERTY AND INCIDENTALS.

Balance in the Treasury, Feb. 1, 1875,	$197 27
The appropriation of 1875,	500 00
	$697 27
Drawn during the year for said purposes,	730 68
Overdrawn the appropriation,	$33 41

HIGHWAYS.

Unexpended money for repairing roads in the Treasury, Feb 1, 1875	$197 68
Appropriated for ordinary repairs,	3,000 00
	$3,197 68

The Town voted that $500 of the money raised for repairing the roads, should be expended under the direction of the Selectmen. And the town teams and men have worked by their directions as follows; to wit:

In Cochesett, widening and graveling Centre street,	$100 00
Grading and reducing the hill on East Centre street, near the depot,	329 82
On Main street, near the cemetery,	40 38
Total,	$470 20

Leaving a balance unexpended of $29 80, which it is proposed to use on River street, near J. D. Burrell's place.

The remaining $2,500 of the appropriation, with the unexpended balances of last year, was divided among the several highway districts. The following schedule will show the sum appropriated to each, and the balance remaining in each district, Feb. 1, 1876.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

Horace Bartlett, Surveyor,	$435 74
Amount expended,	421 79
Balance,	$13 95

DISTRICT NO. 2

Henry W. Leach, surveyor,	$346 76
Amount expended,	251 48
Balance,	$95 28

DISTRICT. NO. 3.

Erland Thayer, Surveyor,	$536 09
Amount expended,	501 69
Balance,	$34 40

DISTRICT NO. 4.

Francis Dunbar, Surveyor,	$481 33
Amount expended,	431 80
Balance,	$49 53

DISTRICT NO. 5.

Henry W. Whitman, Surveyor,	$310 23
Amount expended,	234 65
Balance,	$75 58

DISTRICT NO. 6.

Cyrus Alger, Surveyor,	$287 53
Amount expended,	219 91
Balance,	$67 62

DISTRICT NO. 7.

Josiah Q. Hartwell, Surveyor,	$309 77
Amount expended,	290 48
Balance,	$19 29

There has been paid to Albert L. Alger $25 toward a contract for the Swamp road toward Raynham, not yet completed.

The Town voted at the Annual meeting in March last, that the several Highway Surveyors should employ the men and teams kept at the town farm to work one-half of their several appropriations. And the force maintained there, have performed road work as follows:—

For Highway District No. 1,	$217 87
No. 2,	204 78
No. 3,	246 17
No. 4,	310 50
No. 5,	173 75
No. 6,	122 50
No. 7,	157 60
Total under direction of Surveyor of Highways,	$1,433 17
They have done new work on Copeland street amounting to,	$494 25
By direction of Selectmen, as above,	470 20
Total road work by town farm force,	$2,397 62
They have received for work done elsewhere,	70 18
	$2,467 80

TOWN FARM ACCOUNT.

Inventory of Personal Property at the Farm, as appraised, February 1, 1876.

12 tons of English hay,	$264 00
5 1-2 tons of Meadow hay,	66 00
1,600 llbs of Shorts,	19 50
2 Oxen,	175 00
3 Cows,	180 00
1 cow	35 00
3 horses,	300 00
4 Swine,	50 00
47 Fowls	40 00
1 Ox Cart,	48 00
3 Horse Carts,	125 00
3 Cart Harnesses,	50 00
2 Common Harnesses,	37 00
1 express wagon,	30 00
Hay and wood riggings, wheels and other farming tools,	125 00
150 llbs of Pork,	22 50
25 llbs of Beef,	3 00
65 llbs of Hams and Shoulders,	9 25
58 llbs of Lard,	10 44
24 llbs of butter,	9 60
70 bushels of potatoes,	42 00
25 " of small potatoes,	7 50
1 jar of pickles,	2 00

Flour and groceries,	10 00
Beds and Bedding,	70 00
Stoves and other Furniture,	87 00
Manure and Ashes,	120 00
A bill due the house,	13 00
Cash in the hands of the overseer,	2 19
	$1,952 88
Inventory of February 1, 1875,	1,972 15
Shrinkage of Personal Property,	$19 27

THE TOWN FARM.

Dr.

To paying the Overseers salary,	$600 00
Workmen,	569 34
Saw Bill,	10 89
for repairing sled,	2 09
To cash for tools and use of tools,	43 85
Smithwork,	53 79
Grass and Garden seeds.	13 60
Fertilizers,	11 86
Flour,	150 40
Grain	548 58
Meat and Fish,	172 12
Groceries,	114 77
Crackers,	3 76
Vegetables,	7 56

To cash for Salt,	1	68
Apples,	19	30
Kerosene and other oil,	3	57
Wares and sundry items for house,	19	08
Clothing and Bedding,	36	43
Soap,	11	20
Medicine and Snuff,	6	63
Doctor's bills,	6	50
Clothing for the boy and girl,	75	00
Mrs. Dixon's car fare,		95
keeping team away from farm,		75
Fencing, Powder, and use of wagon,	4	10
Butchering,	4	50
Swine,	27	50
Oxen,	150	00
Horse,	55	00
Cow and Calf,	85	00
	$2,809	71

Cr.

By cash for Butter sold,	127	66
Calves "	39	46
Pigs "	46	00
Pork "	65	72
Eggs "	20	27
Fowls "	32	53
Potatoes "	82	75

By cash for Lumber "	3 00
Oxen "	200 00
Trade in cows,	5 00
other items,	50
work credited to last year,	20 00
work done for individuals,	70 18
work done for Highway Surveyors,	1,433 17
work on West Centre street,	100 00
work on Depot hill,	304 32
work on Main street,	40 38
work on Copeland street,	494 25
By credit for going with hearse	45 00
By cash for boarding Ellen Dixon,	70 00
	$3,200 19

Support of Paupers, 43 1-3 weeks, at $3 per week,	130 00
Entertaining 54 Tramps, at 75c each,	40 50
Total Receipts and Credits,	$3,371 49
Expenses deducted,	2,809 71
Excess of Credits,	$561 78
Take the interest on the farm, and other Property,	$344 60
And the difference of Inventories of 1875 and 1876,	19 27
Total,	$363 87

From the balance of Credits, leaves $197 91 gain to the Town over all expenses of the Town-Farm and Property, including the cost of the Poor in the House, lodging and vitualling Tramps, and wear and tear of tools and implements for the road work, and adding to the stock, one horse and one cow.

THE FARM ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN TREASURY.

The Highway work performed by employees at the farm, amounts to,	$2,397 62
The Overseer has drawn from the Town Treasury more than he has returned to it,	2,036 97
Showing a net gain to the Town by its operations, of	$360 65

POOR OUT OF THE ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for Michael Ryan at Taunton Hospital,	$198 95
Coffin for J. Coughlan,	10 50
Aid to John O'Neil, at Cambridge,	18 50
Support of H. Shaw, at State Work House,	42 00
Aid to Mrs. Polly Reed,	52 00
Aid to Mrs. Hannah Lothrop,	52 00
Aid to H. P. Caswell,	4 00
Aid to Elijah Baxter	10 00
Aid to C. C. Herveys family, at Norton,	20 00

Support of, and expenses with Marinda Lumbert, and child,	71 85
	$479 80

VOTE OF THE TOWN MARCH 1, 1875.

That the Selectmen examine all the roads in town, as to their conditions, and report at a future Town meeting, where special repairs are most needed.

They have viewed the roads in town generally, and are of the opinion that they have been steadily improving for several years past, and but little, if any, special outlay is needed at the present time. That part of Elm street between Stetson's corner and Ripley's corner, is in a poor condition for a road which is used as much as that is; also the road from Elam Howard's to Michael Sullivan's. Both need to be widened by cutting off the angles, and thus straightening them at the same time, before any permanent repairs can be made thereon. And if the prospective times were favorable, they would recommend the Town to petition the County Commissioners to so widen said sections of Highway, that they may be properly repaired. The roads of the town which need the most attention, and which suffer the most for want of it, are those which are used most; particularly the two principle avenues, Main and Centre street. Both of

them, and especially Main street, have been too much neglected, considering the amount which has been spent for repairing and improving the roads of the Town.

A petition has been filed with the Selectmen, to widen and straighten the road between Albert and Heman Copeland's. But in their opinion, the Annual appropriaations should meet the wants of all roads in town, so little used as that is.

We recommend to the Town the expediency of changing the time for paying in the taxes, and having a discount thereon, from January 1, to October 15:

First,—That the money may be available when needed to make payments.

Secondly,—Many people are in funds at that time, who are not in mid winter; and many of the poll taxes might be secured at that time, which now slip out.

The Town now has Funds to meet all its liabilities, and we recommend that no more than four per cent be allowed by the town, in future, on the Soldiers' Monument Fund, if it is continued in the Treasury. It will be needed to meet payments before another tax becomes due. But the Treasurer obtained loans last Autumn, of 3,000, running from one to three months, at 5 per cent. And it could be obtained for a long time at less rate.

We will recommend to the town to make the following appropriations for the ensuing year, as being sufficient to meet the apparent necessities, viz.: —

For Schools,	$3,000 00
repairing School property,	200 00
repairing Highways,	2,000 00
support of the Poor,	800 00
Incidental expenses,	600 00
	$6,600 00

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, the sixth of March next, at 12 o'clock, M.

JAMES H. HOWARD,
HENRY W. LEACH,
CALEB COPELAND Jr., } Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.

West Bridgewater, February 1, 1876.

LIST OF JURORS FOR 1876.

AS PREPARED BY THE SELECTMEN.

Charles Atwell,
Charles W. Bacon,
Horace Bartlett,
Lyman E. Copeland,
Caleb Copeland, Jr.,
Henry Copeland,
Davis Copeland,
Lucius Dunbar,
Elihu Leonard,
Henry S. Keith,
Aaron Millett,
Bradford Packard,
Nahum Packard,
Charles R. Packard,
George M. Pratt,
George D. Ryder,

Francis Dunbar,
John L. Hayward,
Horace W. Howard,
Isaac Howard,
Waldo Howard,
Henry W. Leach,
Elen C. Safford,
George T. Shaw,
Ephraim T. Snell,
Thomas Snell,
Joseph Vosmus,
George Wilbar.

The Selectmen recommend that Guide Boards be maintained at or near the following named places :—

Joshua T. Ryder's,
Justin W. Richards's
Joseph Kingman's,
Lewis Ryder's,
Pine Hill Cemetery,
Charles Howard's,
West of Almshouse,
Edmund Geary's,
Pardon Copeland's
North Centre school house,
Heman Copeland's,
Nahum Leonard's 2,
J. Q. Hartwell's,
John Walker's 2,
Molbry Ripley's,
James Alger's, furnace,
Cyrus P. Brown's,
Joseph Alger's,
Barnabas Dunbar's,
Stillman W. Hersey's,
Dwelley Fobe's,
Benjamin Howard's
George Wilbar's,
John B. Holmes's,
D. H. Baker's store,
Centre Post Office,
Thomas Mackin's,
Waldo Howard's,

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

MARRIAGES RECORDED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1875.

Jan. 3. Bradford Copeland and Caroline Howard, both of West Bridgewater.

Mar. 21. Ebenezer Taylor of Bridgewater, and Helen Perkins of West Bridgewater.

" 31. Charles A. Macomber, Jr., of Bridgewater, and Helen A. Tobey, of New Bedford.

Apr. 22. Hiram Thayer of Bridgewater, and Lizzie B. Gilmore of West Bridgewater.

July 21. William E. Jackson and Mary Jane Copeland, both of Brockton.

Aug. 1. George C. Beals of West Bridgewater, and Emma F. Cathcart of South Abington.

" 22. Warner S. Whiting and Sarah F. Alger, both of West Bridgewster.

Sept. 7. William Stetson of Brockton, and Dianna P. Beals of West Bridgewater.

Oct. 4. William H. Washburn and Edith Howard, both of West Bridgewater.

" 12. Charles E. Simmons and Annie E. Makepiece, both of Raynham.

Nov. 24. Austin A. Shaw and Mary A. Jacobs, both of West Bridgewater.

Dec. 6. Frederick Westwood and Sophia R. Mitchell, both of West Bridgewater.

" 25. Herbert L. Kingman and Love Louisa Flagg, both of West Bridgewater.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1875.

DATE.	NAME OF CHILD.	Sex.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
Jan. 17.	Anna Dunn,	F.	William and Ann.
" 20.	Buton Bruce Milton Packard,	M.	Levi T. and Fidelia A.
Feb. 3.	Daniel Henry Philips,	M.	Benj. F. Jr., and Hannah.
" 27.	Emma C. Johnston,	F.	Charles and Caroline.
" 28.	—— Wilbar,	M.	Samuel E. and Martha A.
March 3.	Alice B. Tower,	F.	Lorenzo A. and Mary S.
" 18.	James Kenedy,	M.	Thomas and Margaret.
April 11.	John Clifton Lumbert,	M.	Marinda F. Lumbert.
" 24.	Nora Mundy,	F.	Mark and Mary E.
" 24	Edna Frances Wilbar,	F.	E. Bradford and Rhoda F.
May 3.	Alfred Edgar Alger,	M.	William O. and Sarah J.
" 9.	William Toomey,	M.	John and Mary.
" 12.	Clara A. Baxter,	F.	Elijah and Lydia F.
" 12.	Daniel Hayes,	M.	John and Ellen.
" 31.	Edmund A. Fisher,	M.	Edward and Mary.
June 3.	Edward J. Pittsley,	M.	Samuel H. and Sophia A.
July 14.	John Hayes,	M.	Michael and Mary.
" 16.	George E. Reaves,	M.	John E. and Caroline.
" 29.	John Kent,	M.	Philip and Margaret.

BIRTHS—Continued.

DATE.	NAME OF CHILD.	Sex.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
Aug. 8.	Mildred F. Ramsdell,	F.	Elias A. and Mary T.
" 18.	Clara B. Walker,	F.	Samuel J. and Belle.
Aug. 29.	Catherine Luddy,	F.	John and Mary.
" 29.	Betsey A. Godfrey,	F.	Elijah A. and Delia H.
Oct. 1.	Freddie C. Dinsmore,	M.	Azel and Susan.
" 7.	Herbert C. Alger,	M.	Herbert A. and Elizabeth.
" 9.	Mary Lawton Stetson,	F.	John M. and Ruth B.
" 22.	Mary Ella Reed,	F.	William and Salome E.
Nov. 3.	Sophia C. Washburn,	F.	Nahum, Jr., and Mary.
" 23.	Philip S. McDonald,	M.	Philip and Rosa.
Dec. 2.	James Ellis Ames,	M.	Charles P. and Harriet E.
" 11.	Margaret Emeline Deane,	F.	William A. and Mary E.
" 15.	Ellen Linnehan,	F.	Frank and Ellen.

Number of births, 32; Males 17, females 15. Both parents foreign, 10. One parent foreign, 5. Both parents American, 17.

DEATHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1875.

DATE.		NAME OF DECEASED.	AGE. Y.	M.	D.	DISEASE OR CAUSE OF DEATH.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
March	3,	Horatio Shaw,	62	11		Consumption,	Middleborough,	Sullivan and Cynthia Shaw,
"	21,	Nancy Dunbar,	85	5	16	Old age,	N. Bridgewater,	John and Mary Willis,
"	18,	Chloe E. Alger,		4	18	Encephalocela,	W.Bridgewater,	Edmund L. and Sarah C. Alger,
"	27,	James Kenedy,			9	Spasms,	W.Bridgewater,	Thomas and Margaret Kenedy,
April	18,	Daty M. Ripley,	13	8	6	Gastritis,	W.Bridgewater.	Maurlboro and Daty Ripley,
August	25,	George E. Reaves,		1	9	Cholera Infantum,	W.Bridgewater,	John E. and Caroline Reaves,
"	31,	Ellen L. Goss,	38	10	13	Consumption,	W.Bridgewater,	Edward W. and Stella Hayward,
Sept.	2,	Jonathan B. Keith,		11	2	Teething,	W.Bridgewater,	Charles A. and Hannah Keith,
"	5	Cordelia F. Copeland,	54	3	19	Gastric Fever	W.Bridgewater,	Jonas and Sally Hartwell,
"	22,	Katharine L. Alger,	40	3	28	Bright's Disease,	W. Bridgewater	Barnabas and Samantha Dunbar,
"	28,	Addie W. Elliott,	1	4	2	Teething,	W. Bridgewater	Charles W. and Emma B. Elliot,
"	30,	Elizabeth Burke,	20	10	2	Typhoid Fever,	W. Bridgewater	William and Rebecca Burke,
Oct.	3.	Benjamin Wilde,	47	6	18	Consumption,	Brockton,	Joseph and Charlotte Wilde,
"	12,	Gertrude E. Alger,	9	3	18	Mem. Croup,	Norwood,	Roland F. and Katharine L. Alger
Nov.	4.	Charles H. Perkins,	10	7	12	Mem. Croup,	W.Bridgewater.	George H. and Susan A. Perkins,
"	8,	Stella M. Goss,	7			Diptheria,	Boston,	Andrew J. and Ellen L. Goss.
"	10,	Hannah Kelleher,	17	1	25	Consumption	W.Bridgewater,	Dennis and Julia Kelleher,
"	16,	Daniel Sullivan,	1	1	23	Accident,	Brockton,	Richard and Susan Sullivan,
"	22,	Mary E. Macken,	13	10		Gravel,	Boston,	Thomas and Mary Macken,
"	22,	Marion K. Alger,	11	10	23	Typhoid Fever,	Norwood,	Roland F. and Katharine L.Alger,
Dec.	3,	Elmer F. Wilde,	1	6	12	Consumption,	W.Bridgewater,	Benjamin and Lucy Wilde,
"	7.	Ellen T. Gray,	40	11	26	Heart Disease,	Marshfield,	Tillson and Eleanor Gardner,
"	13,	Lottie A. Woodworth,	4		3	Mem. Croup,	W. Bridgewater	Wm. L. & Adelia W. Woodworth
"	18,	Frederick W. Leighton,	5	6	18	Mem. Croup,	Cambridge,	James C. and Hannah Leighton,
"	20,	Dolly M. Howard,	50	9	26	Cancer,	Westport,	Harvey and Sarah Wilcox,
"	22,	Ann S. Thayer,	75			Congestion of Lungs	W. Bridgewater	Caleb and Katharine Snell,
"	24.	Nellie Dunn,	3	5	2	Scarlet Rash,	W. Bridgewater	William and Ann Dunn,
"	26,	Charles Packard,	59	8		Heart & Bright's Dis.	Easton,	Perez and Elizabeth Packard,
"	27.	Anna Dunn,		11	10	Scarlet Rash,	W. Bridgewater	William and Ann Dunn.
"	29,	Mary P. Ames,	56	1	1	Pneumonia,	Halifax,	Simeon and Sarah Leach.

Number of deaths registered, 30; Males 10, females 20. 8 were married; one widower and one widow. 16 were less than 20 years of age. 17 were natives of West Bridgewater, and all of American birth.

POPULATION OF THE TOWN.

By the returns of the Census Enumerator, the inhabitants of this town, on the first of May last, when the enumeration was made, numbered 1,769. Fourteen of that number were more than eighty years old; and three had lived more than ninety years.

JAMES HOWARD, Town Clerk.

REPORT OF BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The expense of building a new school house, well, pump, grading lot, &c., for South School, is as follows :—

S. L. Ryder's bill for house, as per contract,	$1,081 00
W. B. Ames, for stones and carting, as per contract,	26 75
C. F. Howard, for underpinning, etc., as per contract,	60 00
D. Fobes, for stones and stove, as per contract,	18 00
T. Dewyre, for 59 cds. gravel, as per contract,	14 75
T. Mackin, for carting 59 cds. gravel, as per contract,	70 80
H. G. Goodrich, for slating black-board, as per contract,	14 20
W. G. Shattuck, for desks and chairs, as per contract,	134 71
M. Hooper, for bricks, as per contract,	9 75
E. W. Holmes, for stove pipe, &c., as per contract,	13 29

P. A. Wales, for pump, as per contract,	20 00
G. Wilbar, for platform and trough, as per contract,	8 50
E. Wheeler, stone work, building well, stones, carting, committee services, &c.,	71 55
H. W. Leach, for setting up desks and seats, and other wood work,	12 50
H. W. Leach, for service as committee, as per contract,	19 65
I. Howard, for work, lumber, furniture, &c. as per contract,	18 73
I. Howard, for service as committee, as per contract,	25 50
Total expense,	$1,619 68

EXPENSE OF REPAIRS ON EAST SCHOOL HOUSE, AS FOLLOWS:—

S. L. Ryder's bill for new floor and other repairs, wood work, &c.,	$125 42
E. F. Howard, bill for plastering and repairing chimney,	51 00
A. Copeland, bill for painting and glazing,	27 60
H. G. Goodrich, bill for slating black-board,	13 80
W. H. Tobey, bill for repairing desks and seats,	25 00
I. Howard, bill for shingles,	23 75

H. W. Leach, bill for setting up desks and seats in East and Old South houses,	9 00
E. Wheeler, bill for carting desks, seats, &c.,	6 50
Total,	$282 07

Respectfully submitted,

ISAAC HOWARD,
ELI WHEELER,
H. W. LEACH,
} Building Committee.

Board of School Committee

For One Year.

W. H. Jennings,
Perez Fields,

For Two Years.

Miss M. A. Thayer,
Curtis Eddy.

For Three Years

G. M. Pratt,
Mrs. Henry Copeland.

W. H. Jennings, Chairman.
M. A. Thayer, Secretary and Superintendent.

Sub Committees.

Centre and South Schools { M. A. Thayer, G. M. Pratt.
Cochesett School,—W. H. Jennings,
North and North Centre Schools,—Mrs. Copeland.
Jerusalem School,—Perez Field,
East School,—Curtis Eddy.

Examination of Teachers

M. A. Thayer, Curtis Eddy,
Mrs. Copeland.

REPORT.

Annual Report of the School Committee of the Town of West Bridgewater, for the Year commencing March, 1875, and ending March, 1876.

In compliance with an established custom, your School Committee submit the following Report:—

The Committee believing that retrenchment should be the order of the day, and being desirous to manage the finances of the school department in as economical a manner as possible without injury to the schools, believe that the sum of $2,750 with the amount received from the State School Fund, and the dividend under the dog law, is amply sufficient if judiciously expended, to maintain the schools for thirty-two weeks.

We, therefore, respectfully recommend the town to appropriate $2,750 for the support of schools.

Our school-houses are in good repair. But few minor repairs will be necessary during the next year. Therefore we ask for an appropriation of one hundred dollars for repairs.

In accordance with an Act passed by the Legislature in 1874, your committee authorized the assessors to ascertain the names and ages of all persons belonging to the town, on the first day of May, 1875, between the ages of five and fifteen. They report the number of such persons as three hundred and fifty-six. Of this number fifteen, we presume, attend school in East Bridgewater.

At the close of the summer term the committee discontinued the Centre Primary School.

We would recommend the town to retain possession of the house and lot for the present. The furniture has been removed to furnish, in part, the East and South school-houses.

The school-house erected last summer for the accommodation of scholars in the south part of the town, is highly appreciated by both parents and scholars, and gives, we believe, general satisfaction.

The committee take this opportunity to commend the teacher, Miss Mary Dewyer; also the pupils, for the care they have taken of the house and furniture. The chairman of the school committee at a recent visit made a thorough examination of the building, and could not discover, inside or out, a mark or scratch on the premises. For a description of the building, and the cost of erecting the same, your Committee refer you to the Report of the Building Committee.

We congratulate the town that some of the citizens feel that they, as well as the teachers and Committee,

have something to do to make the schools a real success. We believe that more of the parents and friends of the scholars have visited the schools the present school-year, than for several years previous.

It has been said, that "If parents would have their children thoroughly educated, let them make the sacrifice of spending an occasional hour in the school-room; not officiously, but with the interest of a wise parent and good citizen."

For a detailed report of the condition of the schools, your Committee refer you to the Report of the efficient and faithful Superintendent, Miss Mary A. Thayer.

The expenses of the several schools for the year are as follows:—

CENTRE SCHOOL.

Wages of teacher, for thirty-two weeks,	$354 00
Wages of teacher of Primary School, for ten weeks,	90 00
Fuel and preparing the same,	9 00
Care of house and fires,	41 25
Repairs,	6 95
	$501 20

COCHESETT SCHOOL.

Wages of Grammar teacher for thirty-two weeks,	$332 00
Wages of Primary teacher for thirty-two weeks,	288 00
Fuel for both schools,	52 00
Care of house and fires,	9 00
Repairs and incidentals,	175 83
	$856 83

SOUTH SCHOOL.

Wages of teacher for thirty-two weeks,	$298 00
Wages of Primary teacher, for twenty-two weeks,	198 00
Care of house and fire,	5 00
Fuel and preparing the same,	58 62
Repairs on Primary School,	66 98
Books purchased for indigent scholars,	4 90
	$631 50

JERUSALEM SCHOOL.

Wages of teacher for thirty-two weeks,	$288 00
Repairs,	54 60
Fuel, and preparing the same, and care of house and fires,	21 75
	$364 35

EAST SCHOOL.

Wages of teacher for thirty-two weeks,	310 00
Care of house and fires,	5 00
Fuel, and preparing the same,	42 87
Repairs and incidentals,	24 30
Repairs by Building Committee,	282 07
	$664 24

NORTH SCHOOL.

Wages of teacher for thirty-two weeks,	$288 00
Fuel, and preparing the same,	15 00
Care of house and fire,	5 00
Repairs,	4 15
	$312 15

NORTH CENTRE SCHOOL.

Wages of teacher for thirty-two weeks,	$288 00
Fuel, and preparing the same,	24 00
Care of house and fire,	5 00
Repairs,	1 89
	$318 89

Paid to the School Committee of East Bridgewater, for fifteen shcolars attending school in said town,	$145 43

Total cost of Schools,	$3,172 92
Appropriation of 1875,	$3,000 00
From State School Fund, for 1875,	273 39
Dividend under dog law for 1875,	178 18
Balance of appropriation,	1,483 50
	$4,935 07
	3,172 92
Balance unexpended,	$1,762 15
Appropriation of 1875 for repairs,	500 00
Balance of former appropriation, as reported March 1, 1875,	172 50
	$672 50
Paid for repairs,	621 67
	$50 83

By particular request the Committee have had an article inserted in the Warrant, for the Annual Town Meeting, "To see if the town will instruct the School Committee to employ a Superintendent of schools for the ensuing year.

W. H. Jennings, Miss M. A. Thayer,
Perez Fields, Mrs. Henry Copeland,
G. Morey Pratt, Curtis Eddy,

School Committee.

West Bridgewater, March 1, 1876.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

The first subject naturally presenting itself in a report of the condition of the schools, at the close of the year, is the attendance, since upon this depends the accomplishment of thorough work. The average attendance for this year will not differ materially from that given in the report of last year, as the causes affecting it remain the same. The highest attendance for one term is 93 per cent. during the Summer term of the Cochesett Grammar School. The lowest 72 per cent. during the Fall term at Jerusalem. In sections where there are no large manufacturing interests and consequent elements of a transient population, the public interest in schools is to be estimated more by the attendance than by the monetary appropriations for support of the schools. The maintenance of good schools requires something more solid than money. It requires individual appreciation of schools as a moral force in the community, and a popular recognition that the schools are the conserving centre of future prosperity. It is very easy to say, that everybody can't be expected to have an interest in schools,—everybody is obliged to

have an interest in life or risk its forfeit, and social life has as frail a tenure as individual life. There must be a genuine individual interest or we shall have poor schools, half alive schools, with an attendance equally lamentable and disgraceful. It is not enough to vote an appropriation and appoint a Committee to see that teachers are secured and paid; the duty of any townspeople does not end here; there is a duty of supporting and upholding these schools, and teachers and the committee, to their highest standard. There is a force of public sentiment that must exist, based on a rational judgment of what schools ought to be; and for want of this the schools in our town suffer. There is no lack of criticism, but vital community interest is lacking. The schools are given over to the Committee and teachers, as organizations apart from the concerns of life, to be ignored so long as they run smoothly. This may be true of all public institutions, but it is more damaging to schools, because their work is of a nature which to be successful, demands discriminating encouragement and help.

All the schools, with the exception of the Centre, have retained their respective teachers throughout the year, which has made the school work more systematic and more steadily progressive. The progress of the schools at the Centre has been retarded by the consolidation of the Primary with the Grammar School at the commencement of the Fall term. The Committee were fortunate in retaining Miss Mary L. Lincoln, of

Hingham, the former teacher of the Grammar School, for the first term after the change. Her previous successful connection with the school rendered the unavoidable complications ~~of the unavoidable complications~~ of the occasion somewhat simplified. The actual work done by the school during this term was much beyond the expectations of the Committee in consideration of the difficulties existing. Miss Lincoln's knowledge of the character of a portion of the school, together with her energy and faithfulness, combined to give success from scanty material. The Committee heard of her decision not to retain the school with great regret, believing she was eminently qualified to carry out the classification and organization which must be a work of time and of discrimination on the part of the teacher, and forbearance on the part of the parents.

In the first year's work of two schools united in one, there can be comparatively little progress of individual classes. Adjustment in classification must precede other efforts. The change affecting the Centre, for the time so unfavorably, shows better results in the South, where good accommodations promise to bring these schools to a flourishing condition.

We wish especially to refer to the marked improvement noticeable in the Primary Division at the close of its second term. The younger children had suffered most in the crowded condition of the school before its separation. At the opening of the school in the Fall term, the pupils averaged far below other children of their ages, in the

first rudiments of Reading, and all that pertained to Primary instruction. The teacher is to be congratulated that the advancement in every direction has been greater in degree than that of any other school in town.

TEXT BOOKS.

During the year, Primary Writing Books with copies for tracing, have been introduced in all the schools where there are young children. They serve the double purpose of relieving the enforced idleness of little children by a pleasant diversion, and of giving them really good practice in the use of the pencil.

Monroe's Practical Speller has been substituted in place of Tower's Progressive Speller, as embracing a larger proportion of words in ordinary use, and words of practical significance. Any book which will lead children to associate sense with sound has a real advantage over others of an opposite character.

By vote of the Committee it was left discretionary with the Superintendent to substitute Hagar's Elementary Arithmetic and Hagar's Primary in place of Eaton's Intellectual and Eaton's Primary. The books were to be introduced as classes were ready for them, without expense to the town; and as the prices of the two publications vary but little, the change will not involve additional outlay from the parents. The superiority of these books over Eaton's lies principally in their systematic arrangement. The series is carefully graded, and is especially to

be commended in the practical nature of its exercises, and its clear concise statement of facts. Eventually we hope to introduce the entire series, and by this gradual substitution, whenever a class is ready for a new book, no extra outlay is made and good books take the place of poor. So far as may be, it is desirable to have text books that are aids and not hindrances in the acquisition of knowledge. The desired result in the study of Arithmetic is not that scholars shall become adepts in repeating elaborate explanations of complicated examples that exist nowhere outside the covers of the book. The end to be attained is self-reliant work in such combinations of numbers as life will present. To gain this, what shall we teach in Arithmetic? To add, substract, multiply and divide accurately and rapidly, a knowledge of keeping legible accounts, making out bills, writing receipts and notes, finding interest on notes, and in this connection, such a knowledge of fractions as will be of practical value. But as text books are arranged, it depends on the discrimination of the teacher whether pupils get the kernel or the husk. Last year we protested against the system of so-called explanation which smothered ideas in words; we are still forced to call the attention of teachers to the fact that nothing is wanted in our schools merely because it sounds well. The simplest statement in the fewest words, of how and why work is done, is all an explanation should aim to compass. Every superfluous word tends to weaken the pupils' grasp of the thought. Mental exercises

from Walton's Charts, varied by exercises in numbers given by the teachers, are of great value, and of more real use, than half the book work; and yet there is an unwillingness to follow up these exercises, from a feeling on the part of the teachers, that the result is not commensurate with the effort, inasmuch as there is little to show for the work; and another reason sometimes given is, that the children are not interested. But in the schools, where these exercises have been given regularly, and with a conviction of their value on the part of the teachers, the children have never failed to sustain an active interest.

DRAWING.

The past year efforts have been made to introduce Drawing in the Cochesett Grammar School, North Centre, Centre, South and Jerusalem. The East School was fairly started in 1874. The progress in some cases has not been as gratifying as might be desired; chiefly from lack of firmness in persevering in thorough instruction of elementary principles, and systematic adherence to some definite course. Children will soon weary of combinations of straight lines unless the teacher insists upon a degree of accuracy which inspires the belief that the work is really worth doing well, and the conviction that to make the line right is real work. Praising bad lines, and allowing work half done to pass as well done takes away all stimulus. Scholars are quick to conclude that if poor work can pass for good, the best is not worth trying for. This is one

prominent reason why the Drawing, in some instances, is hardly creditable, when the time spent on it should show different results. Another reason lies in the fact that, with certain exceptions, it has been more individual than general. Scholars have taken their books and worked according to their own ideas and tastes, with no especial guidance. In schools like ours, for any real success this is a mistake. Work must be intelligent; it must be systematic; it must be under the constant supervision of the teacher; and finally, it must be class work. The East School, the only school where such a system has been rigidly adhered to, shows a steady progress. There are few schools in town that have less time for exercises of this kind, and in this school the time devoted to drawing has never exceeded ten minutes every alternate day, giving three recitations one week and two the next. The school is divided into two classes, and every scholar draws except the members of the Primer class. The general method is this:—

The class take places at the board drawing in concert under the teachers direction. The work done on the board is reproduced in books before the next recitation at the board, and with the same system of simultaneous work and instruction from the teacher. The younger class, fifteen in number, with ages ranging from six to eleven years, have no books, but use the board and slates exclusively. For copies, the teacher makes use of designs, from Bartholomew's series, the class having

blank drawing books. Work at the board we believe to be essential; it gives greater freedom of movement and trains the eye to correct estimates of less limited spaces than are given in designs from books. Combining practice from the board and in the books counteracts the faults which may arise from exclusive work in either direction.

READING.

What is the aim of recitations in Reading? The aimless method in which these recitations are too often conducted forces a question whose answer might awaken sufficient thought to make them of greater value than they now are. Why is Reading taught in schools? Is it to familiarize the eye with words upon the printed page, so that in adult years the tongue may not stumble in readingthe newspaper? Yes and no—but more no than yes, since this familiarity with words is entirely secondary to that identification of words with ideas which makes the study of Reading the fundamental study in all schools. So long as the Reading classes are heard with the aim to teach children to pronounce words, irrespective of ideas, the true work to be done is left untouched. What does this word-calling amount to? So little by comparison with what should be done, that sometimes it seems worse than nothing, because by its senseless repetition it blunts mental activity. Reading ought to be the leading study to help children in the use of their own thought, and through that to help them to come into the intelligent

assimilation of the thought of others. Much of the bad scholarship in schools rises from requiring that which is utterly beyond the capacity of children. Why should good lessons in Geography be expected, when whole sentences are as unintelligible to the pupils as Greek? These poor Geography lessons, and bad Spelling lessons date as far back as the Primer and Second Reader, when the teacher was content to let her scholars repeat the words, and made no effort to call out the ideas which gave those words life. Here was the beginning, and bad beginnings of this sort never make good endings; they are bad all the way through. At the outset words and ideas must be associated. Every new word in the reading lesson must mean something. A teacher can work for this end and secure it. It is not quick work; to superficial judgment it is not showy; it does not take the classes over many "pieces," but it does take them far,—it takes them far all the days of their life. But teachers with a will to work thoroughly, find classes forced on them that have skimmed over book after book, classes painfully glib of tongue and painfully deficient in understanding. Here is where the hardest work for the teacher lies. Little children are receptive, and easily led; children of larger growth, with their mental powers dulled by false methods of instruction, are hard to interest and skeptical to the last degree that anything in a Reading lesson can be studied. In these cases teachers must seize upon the most attractive words for study; words that can be made

interesting to the class. No recitation ought to pass without starting a train of thought and fixing an idea which certain words shall express. This in time will lose its uncertain character and become definite work. Dictionary definitions are dry as dust, and were best let alone, unless teachers can breathe the breath of life into them.

We say little of preparatory drill for distinct enunciation, as in the Report of last year we dwelt somewhat at length on the subject. Teachers are expected to follow Prof. Monroe's suggestions with reference to elocutionary practice, and spelling by sound. But in connection with this we urge culture of thought which gives language its legitimate use.

WRITTEN EXERCISES.

The most commendable feature in the tests of the past year, is that the percentage has not risen. This may seem equivocal commendation, but it is genuine for this reason; the questions have been less of the text book nature than before, wider in range, and hence, more conducive to individual thought. The last test exercises of the Winter term were given by the Superintendent in review of the work of the term in Arithmetic, Geography, Grammar and History. The returns have not yet been received, which is to be regreted as the questions were of a nature to determine the ability of the scholars to apply in a practical way what they had studied. In most in-

stances there has been advancement in this direction; but teachers cannot work too sedulously to get their scholars out of the ruts to which the routine of school work is dangerously liable. The test questions ought to be a means to this end, and made out with a view of supplying the deficiences of the text book. The improvement in writing and spelling in the later test exercises has been marked. When the questions were first introduced, it was impossible to secure much beyond legible answers; but as pupils acquired facility in expressing their ideas on paper, the teachers were requested to gradually raise the standard of criticism; and in the tests for the last term especial attention has been given to neat and distinct writing, to spelling, use of capitals and punctuation. The teachers in all the schools have exercised care in these particulars with varying degrees of exactness. In many instances the exercises have been written in books, which on some accounts are preferable to loose papers, being less troublesome for teachers to overlook, and offering a greater incentive to careful work on the part of the pupils. It has been suggested that so much hasty writing was an injury to the penmanship of the scholars. In the majority of cases we do not find this to be the fact, and eventually, as teachers can give more attention to this feature in the tests, the writing will be improved by them. Writing, to gain skill in the formation of the letters still has its place in the schools, and receives its proper share of time. The Superintendent would recom-

mend that no books of higher grade than No. 4 be used in the town, as the higher grades invariably defeat the end to be secured. The following is the average percentage for the entire year of the test exercises in the different schools together with the number of pupils taking the exercises.

Cochesett Grammar, pupils taking tests 22, percentage,					.94 1-2
East School, pupils taking tests 14, percentage,					.91 1-6
Jerusalem,	"	"	" 11,	"	85
North School,	"	"	" 5,	"	80
North Centre,	"	"	" 5,	"	76 1-2
South School,	"	"	" 10,	"	76 3-8
Centre School,	"	"	" 15,	"	76

The teachers have been active in their efforts to carry out the aim of the Superintendent to bring the schools into more systematic organization and to promote more practical methods of instruction, as well as to raise the standard of general school work. The past year has shown a decided improvement in some of these essentials. The difficulties under which the teachers labor in many instances are fully appreciated, and at least in one respec ought to be removed before the opening of another term The deficiency of school apparatus is a great obstacle in the way of successfully teaching certain important branches. The wall maps in four of our schools bear the inscription, "Entered according to act of Congress

in the year 1849." Whether these are the original prints or a revised edition, is not easy to determine; but there is a strong probability that these are the original publications as their introduction dates as far back as 1853. In addition to wall maps, sets of weights a measures are needed for illustration in teaching Arithmetic. It is mistaken economy to withhold these things. In most instances teachers would gladly avail themselves of such aids, and turn them to good account. On behalf of the teachers as well as the scholars, we would suggest that the proportion of money received from the State School Fund which is intended for the purchase of books of reference, maps and apparatus, be expended for this purpose by the Committee.

The Superintendent would invite the teachers to consider the subject of Teachers' meeting, for the discussion of questions relative to school organization. Such meetings would promote a feeling of general interest which is much needed, and would facilitate harmony of action and purpose on the part of the different schools. The teachers would gain much from direct intercourse with each other both in the way of practical suggestions, and in the sympathy of kindred minds working in a common cause.

Respectfully submitted.

MARY A. THAYER, Superintendent of Schools.

W. Bridgewater, March 1, 1876.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

NAMES OF TEACHERS.	Length of school in months.	Wages of teacher per month.	Number of pupils.	Average attendance.	Percentage of attendance.	Average age of pupil.	Number of classes.
Cochesett, (Grammar Department.)							
H. N. Dillingham, Summer, ...	2½	$40 00	30	26	.88	. .	. .
" " Fall, ...	2½	40 00	32	29	93	.	. .
" " Winter, . . .	3	44 00	36	33	91	14	17
Cochesett, (Primary Department.)							
I. S. Wood, Summer, ...	2½	36 00	44	39	89	. .	. .
" " Fall, ...	2½	36 00	43	37	87	. .	. .
" " Winter, ...	3	36 00	46	38	82	7½	13
Centre School, (Grammar Dept.)							
M. L. Lincoln, Summer, ...	2½	40 00	20	16	82	11½	12
" " Fall, ...	2½	44 00	50	43	80	.	25
E. J. Stevens, Winter, ...	3	48 00	43	34	78	10	. .
Centre School, (Primary Dept.)							
W. A. Holmes, Summer, ...	2½	36 00	42	34	80	9	16
South School.							
M. A. Dewyer, Summer, ...	2½	40 00	57	49	88	8	23
" " Fall, ...	2½	36 00	35	30	87	. .	. .
" " Winter, ...	3	36 00	36	27	75	9½	17
South School, (Primary Dept.)							
W. A. Holmes, Fall, ...	2¾	36 00	38	32	85	. .	. .
" " Winter, ...	2¾	36 00	36	28	80	7	8
North School.							
A. M. Clark, Summer.	2½	36 00	28	24	87	. .	. .
" " Fall.	2½	36 00	27	24	88	. .	. .
" " Winter, ...	3	36 00	29	24	83	8½	24
North Centre School.							
L. W. Kingman, Summer, ...	2½	36 00	20	17	87	. .	. .
" " Fall, ...	2½	36 00	22	19	86	. .	. .
" " Winter, ...	3	36 00	23	18	78	9½	26
East School.							
A. L. Harlow, Summer, . . .	2½	36 00	37	32	87	. .	. .
" " Fall, ...	2½	40 00	38	34	89	. .	. .
" " Winter, ...	3	40 00	36	32	89	9½	22
Jerusalem School.							
H. S. Dunbar, Summer, ...	2½	36 00	23	17	73	. .	. .
" " Fall, ...	2½	36 00	22	16	72	. .	. .
" " Winter, ...	3	36 00	18	15	84	10	17

H. M. Leach

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

OF THE TOWN OF

West Bridgewater,

FOR THE

Year Ending Jan. 31, 1877.

ABINGTON:
Press of C. FRANKLIN DAVID, Cor. of Washington St. & Brockton Avenue.
Plymouth County Journal Office.
1877.

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REPORT OF SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS, AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The following report, showing the Receipts and Expenditures of the town, for the year ending January 31, 1877, and the Liabilities and Assets of the town at said date, is respectfully submitted.

VALUATION.

As assessed May 1st, 1876.

Value of Real Estate,	$680,172
Value of Personal Estate,	189,576
Total,	$869,748

Number of	Polls taxed,	472
"	Dwelling Houses taxed,	349
"	Acres of Land taxed,	10,098
"	Cows taxed.	445
"	Horses taxed,	285

ASSESSMENTS.

State Tax,	$936 00
County Tax,	1,029 48
Town Grant,	5,900 00
Overlayings,	60 45
Total,	$7,925 93

Rate of taxation, $8.00 on $1,000. Poll tax, $2.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

A summary statement of receipts.

Balance in the treasury, Feb. 1, 1876,	$6,032 18
Amount received since,	12,657 82
Total,	$18,690 00

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS.

The sums received were from the following sources;—

From the County Treasurer, a dividend from Dog Tax of 1875,	$226 12
From Cambridge, for support of pauper,	46 95
Loaned of Soldiers' Monument Association,	2,150 37
A poll tax for 1874,	2 00
The tax bills for 1876,	7,925 93
For a pedler's license,	6 00
From State Treasurer, corporation tax for 1876,	335 33
" " " Bank tax for 1876,	717 04
" " " for aid to soldiers and their families,	438 57
" " " from Mass. School Fund,	254 66
" County Treasurer, a dividend from the Dog tax, of 1876,	252 52
" Medford, for aid to David W. Kimball,	45 00
" Braintree, for aid to two Snow families,	69 50
" Wareham, for aid to Betsey A. Frye,	21 00
" Lumber sold from Cochesett school-house,	5 00
Six per cent. on 1875 taxes, collected after January 1, 1876,	161 83
	$12,657 82

PAYMENTS.

The Treasurer has paid the following sums :—

State Tax,	$936 00
County Tax,	1,029 48
State Aid to soldiers and their families,	458 90
Rent of Town Hall,	75 00
Office Rent,	15 00
Note and Interest to Soldiers' Monument Ass'n,	3,185 37
For support of schools,	2,985 33
school findings and repairs,	104 61
repairs of roads and bridges by Surveyors,	1,570 30
widening the swamp road on Lincoln St.,	245 70
gravel and cinders for repairing roads,	28 23
a tract of land for a gravel pit,	27 81
stone monuments,	6 99
printing reports and posters,	94 68
public lectures,	100 00
W. H. Osborne, for services with the Fish Commissioners,	9 67
grain, groceries and Almshouse.	238 75
a cow for the farm,	65 00
digging a well at farm,	22 36
mason work,	60 50
J. C. Leighton, for ten month's salary,	312 50
workmen for the town farm,	140 90
the poor out of the Almshouse,	664 78
Town officers and committees,	566 44
use of team, and car fare,	23 06

stationery, postage and express,	12 97
repairing the hearse,	12 00
	$12,941 33
Amount,	$12,941 33
For taxes on the Matfield property,	66 38
abatement of taxes of 1875, and 1876,	127 89
Six per cent. discount on tax bills for 1876,	475 55
Total,	$13,611 15

LIABILITIES AND UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS.

Note and interest, amount Feb. 1, 1877,	$2,251 63
Appropriation for repairing roads, not drawn,	612 98
Appropriation for schools, not drawn,	2,894 90
Appropriation for repairing school property, not drawn,	61 98
	$5,821 49

ASSETS.

Balance in the Treasury, Feb. 1, 1877,	$50,78 86
Due for State Aid furnished,	459 92

Balance against the town,	282 71
	$5,821 49

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Caleb Copeland, jr., Selectman, Assesor and Overseer of the Poor,	$7 50
James Howard, Selectman, Assessor, &c.,	163 65
Henry W. Leach, Selectman, Assessor, &c.,	60 85
James Howard, as Town Clerk,	34 15
For use of team and car fares of town officers,	23 06
George M. Pratt, Treasurer,	150 00
Eli Wheeler, Constable,	12 50
	$451 71
Amount,	$451 71
Paid Mary A. Thayer, Superintendent of Schools,	$118 29
Wm. H. Jennings, services,	4 50
for Sexton services,	15 00
	$589 50

SCHOOLS.

Balance in the Treasury, Feb. 1, 1876,	$2,646 93
Appropriation by the town for 1876,	2,500 00
A dividend from Mass. School Fund,	254 66

A dividend from dog tax of 1875,	226 12
	$5,627 71
Drawn from the Treasury for the support of schools during the year ending Jan. 31, 1877,	2,894 90
Leaving a balance in the Treasury of	$2,732 81

For repairs of school property and incidentals:

The town raised the sum of	$200 00
Drawn from the Treasury during the year ending January 31, 1877, for that use,	$104 61
This department was over drawnthe previous year,	$33 44
	$138 02
Leaving a balance of	$61 98

HIGHWAYS.

The Town raised the sum of $2000,00 for repairing the roads; which with the unexpended balances of last year, was divided among the several highway districts as follows;—

DISTRICT NO. 1.

Horace Bartlett, Surveyor.

Unexpended balance,	$13 95
Appropriation,	350 00
	$363 95
Amount drawn from the Treasury,	$326 45
Leaving a balance of	$37 50

DISTRICT NO. 2.

Henry W. Leach, Surveyor.

Unexpended balance,	$ 95 29
Appropriation,	260 00
	$355 28
Amount drawn from the Treasury,	226 84
Leaving a balance of	$128 44

DISTRICT NO. 3.

Joseph E. Ryder, Surveyor.

Unexpended balance,	$ 34 40
Appropriation,	350 00
	$384 40
Amount drawn from the Treasury,	890 05
Overdrawn,	$5 65

DISTRICT NO. 4.

Leavitt T. Howard, Surveyor.	
Unexpended balance,	$49 53
Appropriation,	$400 00
	$449 53
Amount drawn from the Treasury,	317 90
Leaving a balance of	$131 63

DISTRICT NO. 5.

William B. Ames, Surveyor.	
Unexpended balance,	$ 75 58
Appropriation,	175 00
	250 58
Amount drawn from the Treasury,	154 53
Leaving a balance of	$96 05

DISTRICT NO. 6.

Cyrus Alger, Surveyor.	
Unexpended balance,	$67 62
Appropriation,	240 00
	307 62
Amount drawn from the Treasury,	170 77
Leaving a balance of	$136 85

DISTRICT NO. 7.

Josiah Q. Hartwell, Surveyor.

Unexpended balance,	$ 19 29
Appropriation,	225 00
	$244 29
Amount drawn from the Treasury,	192 62
Leaving a balance of	$51 67

The remainder of the new laying out on Copeland street has been worked by the men and teams at the Town Farm, at a cost of about $210 02, which sum is credited to the Farm.

TOWN FARM, OR ALMSHOUSE ACCOUNT

Inventory of Personal Property at the Farm, as appraised February 1, 1876.

11 tons of English hay,	$253 00
2 1-2 tons of Meadow hay,	30 00
2 Oxen,	160 00
4 Cows,	200 00
2 Horses,	150 00
3 Swine,	34 00
57 Fowls,	45 00
1 Express wagon,	30 00
2 Light Harnesses,	25 00
3 Cart Harnesses,	40 00
1 Buffalo Robe, and 1 Blanket,	12 00
3 Horse carts,	100 00
1 Ox cart,	45 00
Hay rigging, wheels and Farming tools,	110 00
60 Bushells of Corn,	54 00
4 " " Meal,	3 30
3 " " Oats,	1 50
3 Pecks of Beans,	1 87
46 Bushels of Potatoes,	39 10
10 " Small Potatoes,	3 33
30 " of other Roots,	7 50
230 llbs of salt pork,	28 75
134 llbs of hams and shoulders,	18 50
78 llbs of lard,	11 70

33 llbs of butter,	11 55
Flour and groceries,	$ 12 00
Bed and bedding,	65 00
Stoves and other furniture,	80 00
Manure and ashes,	120 00
Cash in the hands of the overseer,	7 27
	$1,699 37
Inventory of February 1, 1876,	1952 88
Shrinkage of Personal Property,	$253 51

The loss of a good team horse by accident, and the diminished value of the other live stock, will account for about $200 of the above shrinkage of property, at the Farm. The balance is principally due to the wear and tear of other property.

THE ALMSHOUSE.

Dr.

To paying A. Howard, 2d Mass., salary,	$100	00
J. C. Leighton, 10 " "	312	50
Workmen,	143	90
For digging a well,	22	36
Mason work,	6	50
Bricks for well and a Pump,	32	00
for a cow,	65	00
use of Stock,	64	00
Doctor's bill,	4	00
Robe and blanket,	13	25
Lumber, Windows and Nails,	13	24
Smith work,	23	78
for repairing express wagon,	$7	86
" " yoke and other tools,	5	00
for tools,	20	71
Fertilizers,	18	77
Seeds and plants,	9	63
Crockery and other wares,	11	75
Salt,	4	90
Soap,	9	68
Oils,	5	67
Snuff,	2	63
Brooms,	1	58
Clothing and bedding,	59	20
Apples,	6	00

Beans and other vegetables,	6 65
Groceries and provisions,	193 62
Meat and Fish,	82 18
Flour and Grain,	348 38
Incidentals,	7 90
Cash in hands of the overseer,	7 27
	$1,449 91

Cr.

By cash for Butter sold,	$181 09
Calves "	43 10
Pigs "	59 00
Pork "	31 79
Eggs "	63 06
Poultry "	103 50
Potatoes"	20 36
Cabbages"	3 00
dead Horse sold,	$ 1 00
Cow "	35 00
Milk "	80
Hay "	70 90
Work done for individuals,	58 30
Surveyor of Highways,	206 86
Credit for work on Copeland street,	210 02
going with the hearse,	50 00
other road work,	3 00
	$1140 78

Entertaining 73 tramps, at 75 cents each,	54 75

At the commencement of the year there were five paupers in the Almshouse, now there is but one. There has been eight different ones in the House during the year, and they have been there equal to 146 weeks, or averaging about 2 7-9 persons for the whole year.

The total amount drawn from the Treasury to furnish the Farm and support the House during the year, was $789.01; the amount of credits for work away from the Farm, is $528 18; leaving a balance against

the Farm of	$260 83
To which if we add the interest on the property, as we have done heretofore,	344 60
We have the cost of the Farm to be,	$605 43

Without considering the difference in the personal property.

There has been a well dug at the Almshouse, which with the pump cost $54 36, besides the assistance of the men at the house, thus furnishing a convenience very much needed, both at the house and barn.

POOR OUT OF THE ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for Michael Ryan at Taunton Hospital,	$206 15
John Shields at Northampton "	49 30
Funeral expenses of Horatio Shaw,	15 50
Aid to Henry P. Caswell,	26 26

Aid to Daniel T. Eaton, at Taunton,	48 37
Aid to Mrs. Polly Reed, at Holbrook,	52 00
Aid to Mrs. Hannah Lothrop, at East Bridgewater,	52 00
Aid to Wm. J. Stanley,	6 00
Aid to Joseph Morse, and funeral expenses of his wife,	76 00
	531 58

Paid to the poor of other towns who were living here at the time, all of which has been refunded by said towns:—

To David W. Kimball, Medford,	$45 00
Mrs. Betsey A. Frye, Wareham.	21 00
Jacob C. Snow, Braintree,	48 00
Elbridge J. Snow, Braintree,	21 50
	$135 50

ROADS.

The Selectmen wish to call the attention of the Town to the subject of Roads.

The bad condition of the roads in some locations in the town should be remedied. If the unprofitable District system must still be continued, as the determination appears to be, we think, it would be expedient to place a certain sum, five hundred dollars or more, in the hands of the Selectmen, or some other general Committee, to meet some particular necessities which the Surveyors do not attend to. And if we have an enterprising man at the Town Farm, it would be a great saving to the town, for him with the team, and such a force as may be necessary, to be employed to do much of such kind of work. As we have seen that Surveyors generally look closer to their own interests. than that of the town.

We have been petitioned to new lay by widening and straightening the road between Elm and Copeland streets, near Albert Copeland's. But we have not considered it necessary to do very much widening there. Still there must be something done. Perhaps fifty dollars well laid out in clearing and shaping the road; and if abettors are public-spirited and generous, a little widening might be done in some places to advantage, all of which would make it equal to the necessities of that location. There is also. a road in the south part of the town, that requires more particular attention.

The bridge by the mills, now owned by the town, on Matfield street, was broken down a few weeks since, and temporarily repaired for the winter. It needs to be rebuilt and widened, being dangerously narrow.

We recommend for the town to make the following appropriations for the ensuing year, as being necessary to meet the apparent requirements, viz:—

For the Schools, we conform to the recommendations of the School Committee, to wit:	$2,500 00
For School repairs,	200 00
Repairing Highways,	2,500 00
Support of the Poor,	1,000 00
Incidental expenses,	700 00
	$6,900 00

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, the fifth day of March next, at one o'clock, P. M.

JAMES HOWARD,
HENRY W. LEACH,
HENRY COPELAND,
} Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.

West Bridgewater, February 1, 1877.

LIST OF JURORS FOR 1877.

AS PREPARED BY THE SELECTMEN.

Albert L. Alger,
Cyrus Alger,
Charles Atwell,
Charles W. Bacon,
Horace Bartlett,
Lyman E. Copeland,
Caleb Copeland, jr.,
Davis Copeland,
Lucius Dunbar,
Edward W. Hayward,
John L. Hayward,
Albert Howard,
Benjamin Howard,
Isaac Howard,
Waldo Howard,
Horace W. Howard,
Henry W. Leach,
Cyrus Leonard,
Elihu Leonard,
Henry S. Keith,
Aaron Millett,
Bradford Packard,
Nathan Packard,
Clarkson W. Richards,
George D. Ryder,
Thomas Snell,
Joseph Vasmus,
George Wilbar.

GUIDE BOARDS.

The Selectmen recommend that Guide Boards be maintained at or near the following named places :—

Joshua T. Ryder's,
Justin W. Richard's,
Joseph Kingman's
Lewis Ryder's
Pine Hill Cemetery,
Charles Howard's
West of Almshouse,
Edmund Geary's,
Pordon Copeland's,
North Centre school house,
Heman Copeland's,
Nahum Leonard's, 2,
J. O. Hartwell's,
John Walker's 2,
Molbry Ripley s,
James Alger's furnace,
Cyrus P. Brown's,
Joseph Alger's,
Barnabus Dunbar's,
Stillman W. Hersey's
Dwelley Fobe's
Benjamin Howard's,
George Wilbar's,
John B. Holmes's,
D. H. Baker's store,
Centre Post Office,
Thomas Mackin's
Waldo Howard's.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

MARRIAGES RECORDED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1876.

Jan. 22. Charles Pearson Slack of South Abington, and Alice M. Jaynes of Newton.

April 13. Luther Richards and Lydia C. Bird, both of West Bridgewater.

Aug. 19. Benjamin F. Thomas of Hanson, and Katie Gaffney, of West Bridgewater.

Sept. 17. Artuur C. Peckham of Brocton, and Nancy A. Packard, of West Bridgewater.

Oct. 11. Geo. F. Pope and Clara B. Hall, both of West Bridgewater.

Oct. 15.	George H. Knapp of Brockton, and Fannie E. Copeland of West Bridgewater.
Nov. 28.	William S. Loring of Brockton, and Clara E. Thayer of West Bridgewater.
Jan. 1st, 1877.	Myron H. Packard of West Bridgewater, and Cornelia A. Perry of Easton.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1876.

DATE.	NAME OF CHILD.	SEX.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
January 15	Thomas Hennessy,	M	Thomas and Mary.
Feb. 16	Clara Lauretta Holbook,	F	Ellis R. and Udora.
March 1	David W. Whiting,	M	Warner S. and Sarah F.
March 26	Ann Sullivan,	F	Philip and Mary.
April 9	Thomas F. Gorman,	M	William and Hannah.
" 25	Edith Myra Millett,	F	Herbert and Effie G.
May 26	Warren Elliott,	M	Charles W. and Emma L.
" 30	William W. Penpraes,	M	William and Catharine.
June 2	Francis Sullivan,	M	Richard and Susan A.
" 4	Charles J. Johnson,	M	Charles and Caroline.
" 14	Catharine A. Murry,	F	Thomas and Agnes.
July 8	Sarah Frances Howard,	F	Albert and Sarah E.
" 9	Clara B. Woodward,	F	Alden A. and Clara H.
" 16	Susan Clarkson Howes,	F	Zebin and Lousia B.
August 15	Alice Maud Brainard,	F	William and Agusta A.
Sept. 3	Margaret Bradley,	F	James and Mary Ann.
" 18	Lester Beals,	M	George C. and Emma F.
October 12	William Frank Shipman,	M	William N. and Sarah F.
" 13	Ralph Lawrence Williams,	M	Charles E. and Martha M.

BIRTHS—Continued.

DATE.		NAME OF CHILD.	SEX.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
Oct.	15	Michael Dunn,	M	William and Ann.
"	29	Ellen Lynch,	F	Daniel and Joanna.
Nov.	4	Ralph Payton Gibbs,	M	Andrew B. and Dora B.
"	27	Carrie Frances Reeves,	F	John E and Caroline.

DEATHS REGISTERED IN WEST BRIDGEWATER IN 1876.

DATE.	NAME OF DECEASED.	AGE. Y.	M.	D.	DISEASE OR CAUSE OF DEATH.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
January 12,	Mary Dunn,	6	4	27	Scarlet Rash,	Plymouth,	Joseph and Eunice J, Kingman,
" 16,	Augusta R. Perkins,	47	9	13	Embolism,	W. Bridgewater,	Molbry and Data Ripley,
February 5,	Simeon C. Keith,	53	5	5	Hemorrhage of Lungs	" "	Pardon and Abigail Keith,
" 12,	Catharine Luddy,	0	6	3	Teething and Influenza,	" "	John and Mary Luddy,
" 14,	Rodelia A. Stanley,	16	1	26	Suicide,	" "	Wm. J. and Hannah R. Stanley,
" 16,	Amy H. Holmes,	64	5	21	Appoplexy,	Easton,	Thomas and Mary Randall,
March 1,	Cordelia M Howard,	6	1	5	Diptheria,	W. Bridgewater,	Lewis 2d and Experience Howard,
" 7,	Edward J. Pittsley,		9	5	Pneumonia.	" "	Samuel S. and Sophia A. Pittsley,
April, 30,	Mary Abbie Clark,	28	7	3	Diabetes,	" "	Abraham M. and Mary W. Clark,
July 6,	John Gallagher.	76			Dropsey.	Ireland,	Mathew and Margaret Gallagher,
" 11,	Mary Jane Morse,	32		3	Consumption,	Kingston,	Ezra and Mary Lumbert,
August 7,	Clara H. Woodward.	27	1	17	Puerperal Fever,	Freetown,	Edward B. and Fanny E. Pittsley,
" 15,	Clara B. Woodward,		1	6	Cholera Infantum,	W. Bridgewater,	Alden A. and Clara H. Woodward,
" 21,	Irene W. Glass,	55	10	4	Heart Disease,	" "	Charles F. and Susan Dunbar,
" 25,	Lawrence Casson,	50			Gangrene on Lungs.	Ireland,	Unknown and Ann Casson,
" 26,	Ann Martin,	61	3		Heart Disease,	England,	Robert and Ann Barker,
" 27,	Louisa Turner,	40	9	22	Consumption,	Sweden,	John and ——— Saber,
Septemb'r 3,	John Hersey,	66	1		Heart Disease,	E. Bridgewater,	John and Sally Hersey,
" 7,	Melvin Bailey,	77	7	21	Dropsey,	Plymouth,	Eliphalet and Martha Bailey,
" 9,	Francis Sullivan,		3	6	Salt Rheum,	W. Bridgewater,	Richard and Susan A. Sullivan,
" 18,	Lester Beals,			1	Asphia,	" "	Geo. C. and Emma F. Beals,
" 21,	William B. Sargent,	53	4	15	Lung Fever,	Canton,	
" 24,	Julia Maria Lothrop,	19	7	8	Consumption,	W, Bridgewater,	John E. and Lucinda S. Lothrop,
October 9,	Louisa T. Perry,	79	10	22	Old Age,	Boston,	
" 13,	Joseph Kingman,	77	7		Appoplexy,	W. Bridgewater,	Joseph and Eunice J. Kingman,
" 22,	James Shields,	65			Dropsey,	Ireland.	Miles and ——— Shields,
Novem'r 14,	Abiel Packard,	84	8	4	Old Age,	No. Bridgewater	Josiah and Rebecca Packard,
" 25,	Elam Howard,	59	5	15	Gastric and Typhoid,	W. Bridgewater,	Thomas and Hepsey Howard,
Decem'r 12,	Josiah S. Morey,	65	6	20	Congestion of Lungs.	Maine,	Thomas and Mercy Morey,
" 29.	Mary H. Packard,	18	9	22	R. Road Disaster,	Boston,	Charles and Nancy T. Packard.

Number of deaths registered, 30; Males, 14; Females 16; 12 were married; 2 widows and 5 widowers; 8 were less than 20 years of age; 14 were natives of West Bridgewater, and 25 were of American birth; 8 of the American born were of Foreign parentage.

JAMES HOWARD, Town Clerk.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Committee,

OF THE

Town of West Bridgewater.

1876.

REPORT.

The School Committee report the expenses of the several schools of the town during the year ending March first, 1877, as follows:—

COCHESETT SCHOOL.

Wages of teacher, thirty-two weeks, Grammar,	$332	00
Wages of teacher, " " Primary,	272	00
Fuel for both schools,	30	75
Care of house and fires,	10	00
Repairs,	33	98
	$678	73

CENTRE SCHOOL.

Wages of teacher, thirty-two weeks,	$320 00
Fuel,	28 55
Care of house,	9 00
Repairs,	31 09
	$388 64

SOUTH SCHOOLS.

Wages of teacher, thirty-two weeks,	$272 00
Wages of teacher, thirty-two weeks, Primary,	272 00
Fuel,	34 25
Care of house,	10 00
Repairs,	14 69
	$602 94

JERUSALEM SCHOOL.

Wages of teacher, thirty-two weeks,	$267 00
Fuel,	20 25
Care of house,	6 00
Repairs,	4 29
	$297 54

NORTH SCHOOL.

Wages of teacher, thirty-two weeks,	$256 00
Fuel,	15 50
Care of house,	5 00
Repairs,	14 54
	$291 04

NORTH CENTRE SCHOOL.

Wages of teacher, thirty-two weeks,	$257 00
Fuel,	19 50
Care of house,	5 00
Repairs,	4 70
	$286 20

EAST SCHOOL.

Wages of teacher, thirty-two weeks,	$288 00
Fuel,	25 00
Care of house,	5 00
Repairs,	4 90
	$322 90

Paid to the town of East Bridgewater for tuition of thirteen children in that town,	$130 86

Paid to Albert Howard for tuition of one pupil in the town of Easton,	$10 42
Total amount paid for support of schools,	$2,901 08
Total amount paid for repairs,	108 29
Appropriation for 1876,	2,500 00
Received from State School Fund,	254 66
Dividend under the Dog Law,	226 12
Balance unexpended, March 1st, 1876,	1,762 15
	$4,742 93
Total for support of schools,	2,901 08
Unexpended,	$1,841 85

REPAIRS.

Appropriated for repairs, 1876,	$200 00
Unexpended balance from 1875 (as reported),	50 83
	$250 83
Expended for repairs, 1876,	108 25
Unexpended,	$142 58

The Committee report that it is their opinion that the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars, and the dividend

accruing under the dog law should be appropriated for the support of the schools during the year ending March 1st, 1878, which amount, together with that received from the State School Fund, will be sufficient for the purpose.

They also recommend that two hundred dollars be appropriated for repairs.

The school property is in condition not to require an outlay of any large sum for repairs. The new South School House should have one coat of paint soon; and the Committee think that this can be done with the amount recommended above, leaving enough for the ordinary repairs.

The terms of office to which Miss Thayer and Mr. Eddy were elected expired with the present school year. There is also a vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs. Copeland, who declines serving longer on the Board. in December last Mr. Jennings resigned; and at a joint meeting of the Selectmen and School Committee, Mr. Henry W. Leach was elected to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the town in March. It will therefore be necessary to elect four members to the Board at that time.

There were three hundred and thirty-two persons belonging in town between the ages of five and fifteen on

the first day of May, 1876. Of this number thirteen attend school in East Bridgewater.

For further information we refer to the report of the Superintendent.

CURTIS EDDY.
GEORGE M. PRATT.
MARY A. THAYER.
EMILY B. COPELAND.
ANDREW J. GOSS.
HENRY W. LEACH.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:—

IN submitting my annual report of the condition of the schools of this town, I propose to confine myself chiefly to a survey of the results of the year's work as seen in the statistical records of attendance and percentage of scholarship.

ATTENDANCE.

Those having in charge the school must give their first attention to the extent to which public sentiment enforces attendance on them. For this is really more a question of public interest in education than of individual appreciation of school advantages. And especially in towns

like our own, with centralized social interests, the subject is almost exclusively dependent upon the stress of moral feeling in the community, and is beyond any direct appeal from the School Committee through the law. Recognizing this, teachers have been urged to base their efforts accordingly in working to secure the regular attendance of their pupils.

The result in figures for the three years during which I have served in capacity of Superintendent, is as fol lows: —

For 1874,	general average	. .	.83 per cent.
For 1875,	" "	. .	.82 "
For 1876,	" "	. .	.88 "

This average, it must be remembered, is that of pupils actually in the schools as scholars, and is considerably higher than the average given in the State Returns, which is based on the whole number of children living in the town. The average attendance for the town in 1874 was .78 per cent, while in 1875 it fell as low as .70 per cent, and this while the school attendance stood but one per cent below that of the preceding year.

CLASSIFICATION.

Our schools are such that rigid classification is impossible; the material of which they are made up forbids systematic organization. The children who would suffer from it being those who now have fewest opportunities for instruction. The classification, with the single exception of the Centre School, is as good as can be reasonably expected. But in this respect the Centre shows no improvement. In putting the Primary with the Grammar School there could be at the outset little concerted action; and although the classes have been consolidated somewhat, yet in almost every instance it has been done at the expense of one or both the classes united. There still remains the work of two schools in one, and with no reasonable prospect of amendment. No teacher, however gifted, can give the children in this school an equal chance with others in the town, because no teacher can do double duty with satisfactory results. And to continue the school under one teacher, with its present organization, is manifestly unwise. The experiment, it must be remembered, was in a manner thrust on the Committee, and has justified in its results the doubts of all who had any clear understanding of the nature or the attempt.

The table given shows the yearly average of pupils in each school, with the average number of classes in daily recitation.

The number of classes is usually larger in the winter term; but aside from this is not greatly variable throughout the year: —

YEARLY AVERAGE OF PUPILS FOR 1875.

		DAILY RECITATIONS.
Centre School	51	20
Cochesett Primary	41	16
South Primary	38	9
East School	37	24
Cochesett Grammar	34	17
South Intermediate	30	20
North School	26	22
North Centre	19	18
Jerusalem	19	18

This table may give some idea of the comparative amount of work in each school, and yet figures in such a subject really show little without some practical knowledge of what they involve. With twenty recitations daily, let us see how much time the teacher can devote to each. Six hours make the school day: deducting thirty minutes for receses, fifteen minutes for opening exercises, five hours and a quarter are left; and out of this time, at the least estimate, fifteen minutes must be taken in answering questions and calling classes, so that five hours of working time will remain, which gives just fifteen minutes for each recitation, and this, with allowing a slight margin for inevitable interruptions. Now in

schools where the classes requiring the most time happen to be small, the chances are not so bad as the figures would indicate. In many of our schools the more advanced classes number only two or three pupils, and in some cases the primer class is equally small. But in a school like the Centre, with large classes throughout, the actual disadvantages are hardly indicated by the table. For instance, how much can be done for a primer class of nine scholars in fifteen minutes? Or for an arithmetic class of twelve scholars? Teachers know who have tried; and instead of how much, they find it always ranging on the side of how little. I call your attention to these points, because teachers are often subjected to unjust condemnation, from lack of consideration of the manifold claims on their time. In mixed schools, when classes have been reduced to the smallest number possible, there yet remains a complexity of duties which only the most faithful endeavor, combined with natural tact and executive ability can successfully discharge.

The books now in text-use are Monroe's Readers and Spellers, Payson & Dunton's Writing Books, Guyot's Geographies, Greene's Grammars, Eaton's and Hagar's Arithmetics, Greenleaf's Algebra, Cutler's Physiology, and Higginson's and Barnes' Histories.

Whenever a class has required new books in History, I have, with two exceptions, introduced "Barnes' Brief History of United States;" by competent judges now considered the best text-book of the kind published. In the Cochesett Grammar School, where a class of advanced

pupils was formed, Higginson's book was chosen as more complete in detail, and better suited to the especial needs of the class. The same book has been continued as the class increased in number. In the East School, where the teacher desired to give ont the lesson by topics from the board, the classes having no books, the same history was used. It would be advisable to introduce Higginson's History in all the schools as a "desk book" for reference, as it contains much valuable information outside the immediate range of historical facts; and this is so attractively presented, that children find it easy to remember and pleasant to acquire. These two books, Barnes' and Higginson's together, one as text-book and one as reference for collateral details, give a most satisfactory and thorough course of this study.

In Arithmetic no changes have been made beyond those indicated last year. Eaton's Primary is superseding Hagar's Primary, which is in every point its superior. We hoped to remove Eaton's book during the year, but a few classes still remain. Hagar's Elementary has in a few instances been introduced in connection with Eaton's Intellectual, but does not take the place of that, as it gives too little mental work. This book, — the Elementary, — is an admirable introduction to the Common School in its simple and concise examples in slate-work; but to make the course what it should be, a good mental arithmetic is needed. Eaton's is not such. Its arrangement is bad, its design faulty, its examples not practical. The teachers have been requested to choose the more

desirable portions for use in the classes; but that did not make a poor book good. Our classes in Arithmetic are suffering for a mental course which shall be at once thorough and practical. The limit of their knowledge needs extension beyond the course of the book; and this must come mainly through mental exercises. We want arithmetic classes which shall not only work satisfactorily under the eye of the teacher, but shall be able to make some creditable application of numbers outside the schoolroom.

WRITTEN EXERCISES.

The next subject to which your consideration is invited is that of the written review exercises, introduced in the schools three years ago. At the introduction of the tests, errors in spelling, use of capitals, and punctuation were corrected, but not deducted in marking the percentage. At the opening of the present year the improvement in these points had been such that the percentage was marked with deductions of one per cent. for every word misspelled, of one-half per cent. for every capital letter wrongly used. And this has been done with no falling off in the general average, as will be seen by the tables. The pupils have no access to their books while writing the reviews, and from careful examination of the papers both before and after correction by the teachers,

I have every reason to believe these figures represent genuine work: —

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF TESTS, 1876.

Average number of Pupils taking tests.		SPRING.	FALL.	WINTER.	TOTAL.
Cochesett	20	·95½	·92½	·95½	·94½
East School	14	.86¼	·90½	·93½	·90
South School	16	·79½	.84⅔	.85	.83
North School	4	.80	.91	.91	.87
Jerusalem	11	.78½	.83	.87	.82 5-6
North Centre	00	.79	.84	.91	.84⅔
Centre School	21	.64½	·70	·75½	·70

Total average of percentage of 1874 82
" " " " " 1875 83
" " " " " 1876 85

While in my personal judgment these writen reviews are a vital element in giving value to study and recitation, and while they have proved thus far beyond question to be a definite and positive help to that self-reliant thoroughness which should be the aim of school discipline, it is but just to consider certain objections which have been urged against them. It has been suggested that these exercises injure the writing of the scholars, because teachers urge them to rapid work. With careless supervision this may be the case; but our teachers have for the most part insisted upon legible writing, and have made

neatness in work an especial point, creating a feeling of pride in handsomely written exercises; and under these conditions the writing of individuals has improved. The usual time and attention is given to the formation of letters in copy-book practice; and for skill in execution, and painstaking effort the writing books throughout the town have never shown more creditable pages. But what is the object of teaching children to write? It certainly is not that by studied and laborious effort, they shall be able to write a Spencerian hand, however admirable that may be as a guide in the copy book. It is that they may acquire a felicity to write rapidly, neatly, legibly, — handsomely, if they have the gift, but legibility and rapidity are the desirable results. And what can better help in securing these than practice outside the pages of the writing book? The second objection to the written reviews is more serious than the first, because calculated to mislead teachers and parents by its apparent bearing on the direct want in all our schools of time to work in. And when one of the Committee expressed disapproval of these exercises because they took so much time which might be devoted to recitation, I felt the objection carry weight with all those who were disposed to consider that recitations met every need of the scholar, and that all time spent otherwise was time wasted. But in this also we must go back to the object of study, which is not to acquire the ability to repeat lessons from day to day, but to assimilate ideas, and train the mind to action independent of books.

In recition a scholar is always more or less sustained by the personal magnetism of the teacher. Teachers are fully conscious of this, and will readily accede the fact that the chances of a good recitation are double the chances of a good test under equal conditions. In a written exercise the pupil must work independently; what is actually known is his only available basis, and the temptation to guess on paper is far less than when standing in the class.

Another objection is urged that these exercises are of no use because teachers assist pupils in them so much. This might be said with equal force of every study in school. Faithful teachers no more give their scholars undue assistance in written than in oral recitations, and supposing a teacher is short-sighted enough or dishonest enough to tell her pupils just what answers to write, which is about the extent to which she can go, there still remains something which cannot be taken from them, — the practice in writing, in spelling, and punctuation. There will always exist chances of unfaithful and careless teachers so long as the necessity of their selecting from average humanity remains. Yet these exceptions will not undermine the general usefulness of schools, however they may limit it by individual shortcomings, neither will they destroy the advantages resulting from any branch of study or school exercise, though they may prove its temporary defeat.

A comparison of the standing of the school made from

the table of percentage, cannot be strictly just since the percentage is influenced by varying conditions of inequality. But the schools that at present stand on the most solid footing are the East, the Cochesett Grammar and the South Intermediate. The two Primary schools are also in excellent condition, and have made marked improvement during the past year. The exercises in sentence making in the South Primary deserved especial notice, and the papers of the Winter term show great progress in use of language and facility of expression.

A feature in the Cochesett Primary, too much neglected in the majority of our schools, is the thorough and careful drill in consonant sounds, and spelling by sound.

This school with the South Intermediate ranks in this preparatory work, without which good enunciation is impossible, the precedence taken in rank by the five schools above mentioned is largely due to their continuance under the same teachers for longer periods than has been the fortune of other schools in the town. By this statement it is not to be inferred that the quality of the teachers work did not contribute to the result.

I append the following extracts from the reports of three teachers who have had the longest trial of the test exercises, and I would commend their testimony to the consideration of the Board of Committee for the coming year:—

Miss Dillingham of the Cochesett Grammar school who three years from the time of the first introduction of written reviews says:—

"In reviewing the work accomplished by the scholars I take pleasure in stating that there is no room for questioning the practical results of these semi-monthly test exercises. By means of them the more important facts are deduced from the different lessons and fixed in the pupils mind. The interest which the scholars themselves take in these reviews increases from term to term, showing that they too can see and appreciate the value of the work, which advances them in habits of neatness and correctness, in facility of expressing ideas, spelling, etc."

Miss Dewyer of the South Intermediate School writes :—

"I regard tests as the results of the child's mental activity stated in writing. An oral examination is valuable, but it is a convenient cloak for inefficiency. From the tests I can judge more correctly of the ability of the pupils who write them. My scholars have been benefitted by written exercises in these points: in spelling, in use of capitals, in penmanship, and in having acquired the ability to make more concise statements."

Mrs. Harlow of the East School in her report gives the following :—

"I think the test exercises are a decided advantage to scholars, they are not only a great aid in enabling pupils to express well their thoughts in writing, but knowing, as they do that the principles and main points in their studies will be brought up again in written reviews, the

scholars are more thoroughly prepared, and carefully writing these reviews helps to fix them more firmly in mind. Their help in promoting correct spelling is invaluable."

GENERAL REMARKS.

Among the changes which I would suggest in the method of conducting our schools, is the introduction of a code of Regulations which shall not only indicate the outside management, but map out salient points in a course of instruction that shall be so far systematic as the nature of the schools will permit. Whatever the organization of the Committee such regulations are a neccessity to steady progress. There must be a recognized aim and a united working to its fulfilment to produce satisfactory results. It is true that different Boards may not agree on minor points, but there is common ground enough to establish the foundation of a system that shall help the schools as well as those in immediate charge of them, to the outline of a definite and acknowledged purpose.

But slight additions have been made to the school apparatus during the past year. The retrenchment of the school appropriation made the strictest economy obligatory on the Committee, and the only purchase made was five United States maps for schools where these were absolutely needed. Other maps are wanted in the schools and new dictionaries. The Committee have a right to spend 25 per cent. of the State Fund

each year for such purposes, but the immediate necessity for teachers seemed to go before the want of these books and maps.

In closing, I wish most cordially to thank the teachers for their sympathetic and active co-operation in carrying out my suggestions, and would express my appreciation of the actuating principle of fidelity and earnestness which has characterized their work.

To my fellow laborers on the Board of the Committee I return recognition of the kindly and courteous spirit in which they seconded my efforts in behalf of the schools.

Respectfully Submitted,

MARY W. THAYER,

West Bridgewater, February 1, 1877.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

NAMES OF TEACHERS.	Length of school in months.	Wages of teacher per month.	Whole number of pupils.	Average attendance	Percentage of attendance.
Cochesett (Grammar Department).					
H. N. Dillingham, Spring,	2½	$40 00	30	27½	92
" " Fall,	2½	$40 00	34	[illegible]	94
" " Winter,	3	$40 00	38	35	92
Cochesett, (Primary Department.)					
I. S. Wood, Spring,	2½	$34 00	48	41	89
" " Fall,	2½	$34 00	45	41	91
" " Winter,	3	$34 00	31	25	80
Centre School.					
F. A. Howard, Spring,	2½	$40 00	49	45½	92¾
" " Fall,	2½	$40 00	53	44½	83½
Horace Packard, Winter,	3	$40 00	51	44	86
South School.					
M. A. Dewyer, Spring,	2½	$34 00	31	26½	85
" " Fall,	2½	$34 00	29	21	88
" " Winter,	3	$34 00	30	26½	88¾
South School, (Primary Department.)					
W. A. Holmes, Spring,	2½	$34 00	37	30	81
" " Fall,	2½	$34 00	38	32¾	86
" " Winter,	3	$34 00	37	30	81½
East School.					
A. L. Harlow, Spring,	2½	$36 00	36	32	90
" " Fall,	2½	$36 00	38	33	87
" " Winter,	3	$36 00	38	32¼	84
North School.					
A. M. Clark, Spring,	2½	$32 00	28	24	85
E. Andrews, Fall,	2½	$32 00	26	22½	86½
" " } A. J. Howe, } Winter,	3	$32 00	25	20	87
North Centre School.					
L. W. Kingman, Spring,	2½	$32 00	14	13¾	97
E. F. Hicks, Fall,	2½	$30 00	17	15	88
L. M. Toothaker, Winter,	3	$34 00	29	26	89½
Jerusalem School.					
H. S. Dunbar, Spring,	2½	$32 00	22	18	81½
A. L. Marble, Fall,	2½	$34 00	21	18½	88
" " Winter,	3	$34 00	16	14	87½

H. W. Leach

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

OF THE

TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER,

FOR THE

Year ending January 31, 1878.

BROCKTON:
GAZETTE STEAM PRINTING OFFICE.
1878.

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REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS,

AND

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The following report, showing the receipts and expenditures of the town for the year ending January 31, 1878, and the liabilities and assets of the town at said date, is respectfully submitted :—

Valuation.

As Assessed May 1, 1877.

Value of real estate, ...	$694,290 00
of personal estate, ...	190,533 00
Total, ...	$884,823 00
Number of polls, ...	446
of dwelling-houses taxed, . .	353
of acres of land " . .	10,130
of cows " . .	460
of horses " . .	280

Assessments.

State tax, ...	$780 00
County tax, ...	1,029 48
Amount carried forward, . . .	$1,809 48

Amount brought forward, . . .	$1,809 48
Town grant, ...	7,250 00
Overlayings, ...	233 98
Total, ...	$9,293 46

Rate of taxation, $9.50 on $1,000. Poll tax, $2.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

A Summary Statement of Receipts.

Balance in treasury, February 1, 1877, .	$5,078 86
Amount received since, ...	11,832 88
Total, ...	$16,911 74

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS.

Received from the county treasurer a dividend from the dog tax of 1877, . .	$224 74
From state treasurer, bank tax for 1877, .	738 33
corporation tax " .	272 87
balance of corporation tax for 1876, ...	6 30
for aid to soldiers and their families, ...	459 35
The town, county, and State tax bills for 1877, ...	9,293 46
From Sandwich, for aid to the Wright family,	31 00
Boston, for aid to Freeman family, .	3 50
S. A. Morse, for aid furnished, . .	175 00
Amount carried forward, . . .	$11,204 55

Amount brought forward, . . .	$11,204 55
Dividend from the Mass. School Fund, .	237 83
For a horse, 2 carts, and a harness, sold, .	125 00
2 oxen, sold, ...	150 00
Six per cent. on 1876 taxes collected after October 15, 1877, ...	115 50
	$11,832 88

PAYMENTS.

The Treasurer has paid the following sums :—

State tax, ...	$780 00
County tax, ...	1,029 48
State aid to soldiers and their families, .	425 50
Rent of town-hall, ...	75 00
Office-rent, ...	15 00
Note and interest to Soldiers' Monument Association, ...	2,303 07
For land for a gravel-pit, ...	27 13
gravel purchased by surveyors, . .	33 75
support of schools, ...	2,975 43
school findings and repairs, . .	227 40
repairs of roads and bridges by surveyors, ...	2,060 79
repairing the road near Albert Copeland's, ...	128 82
repairing a bridge by the selectmen, .	6 52
gravel-screen, ...	6 00
damage from a defect in the highway, .	3 00
support of the poor out of almshouse, .	566 93
aid to the poor of other towns, . .	209 19
timber for guide-posts, ...	7 50
printing, ...	70 04
Amount carried forward, . . .	$10,950 55

Amount brought forward, ...	$10,950 55
For recording deeds, ...	2 27
service of sextons, ...	8 50
public lectures, ...	100 00
oxen for the town farm, . . .	125 00
cow " "	40 00
J. C. Leighton, salary at town farm, .	354 16
grain bill for the " .	141 26
fertilizer " " .	47 55
town officers and committees, . .	539 86
use of team, and car fare, . . .	15 78
stationery, postage, and express, . .	10 98
in settlement of an action for alleged damage from defects in the highway, .	500 00
counsel in the above case, . . .	125 00
witnesses " " and a survey of the premises, ...	78 55
abatement of taxes, ...	70 55
Six per cent. discount on tax bills for 1877,	557 60
	$13,667 61

ASSETS.

Remaining in the treasury, February 1, 1878,	$3,351 47
Due for State aid furnished, ...	452 00
	$3,803 47

LIABILITIES OF THE TREASURY.

Remainder of the appropriation for schools,	$2,742 74
" " for repairing roads,	554 98
" " for " school property, ...	34 56
Total, ...	$3,332 28

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid James Howard, selectman, assessor, overseer of the poor, &c., . .	$147 00
Henry W. Leach, selectman, assessor, overseer of the poor, &c., . .	66 25
Henry Copeland, selectman, assessor, overseer of the poor, &c., . .	44 00
George M. Pratt, treasurer, . .	150 00
James Howard, town clerk, . .	35 27
Mary A. Thayer, superintendent of schools, ...	90 34
Wm. H. Jennings, school committee, .	3 50
Auditing committee, ...	3 50
	$539 86

SCHOOLS.

The town raised for the support of schools, .	$2,500 00
Balance in the treasury, February 1, 1877, .	2,732 81
A dividend from Mass. School Fund, . .	237 83
from the dog tax of 1876, . ..	252 53
Total, ...	$5,723 17
Drawn from the treasury for the support of schools during the year ending January 31, 1878, ...	2,980 43
Leaving a balance in the treasury of .	$2,742 74

For repairs of school property and incidentals —

The town raised the sum of	$200 00
A balance in the treasury, February 1, 1877, .	61 98
Total, ...	$261 98
Drawn during the year for that purpose, .	227 42
Leaving a balance in the treasury of .	$34 56

HIGHWAYS.

The town raised the sum of $2,000 for repairing the roads; which, with the unexpended balances of last year, was divided among the several highway districts as follows: —

District No. 1.

Molbry A. Ripley, *Surveyor*.

Unexpended balance, ...	$37 50
Appropriation for 1877, ...	400 00
Total, ...	$437 50
Amount drawn from the treasury, . . .	323 23
Leaving a balance of	$114 27

District No. 2.

Ebenezer Taylor, *Surveyor.*

Unexpended balance, ...	$128 44
Appropriation for 1877, ...	250 00
Total, ...	$378 44
Amount drawn from the treasury, . . .	288 15
Leaving a balance of	$90 29

District No. 3.

Charles C. Thayer, *Surveyor.*

Appropriation for 1877, ...	$325 00
Overdrawn by surveyor of 1876, . . .	5 65
Total, ...	$319 35
Amount drawn for 1877, ...	264 23
Leaving a balance of	$55 12

District No. 4.

Pardon Copeland, *Surveyor.*

Unexpended balance, ...	$131 63
Appropriation for 1877, ...	400 00
Total, ...	$531 63
Amount drawn from the treasury, . . .	371 23
Leaving a balance of	$160 40

District No. 5.

Eli Wheeler, *Surveyor.*

Unexpended balance, ...	$96 05
Appropriation for 1877, ...	200 00
Added a special appropriation for St. George's Street, ...	100 00
Total, ...	$396 05
Amount drawn from the treasury, . . .	379 84
Leaving a balance of	$16 21

District No. 6.

Albert L. Alger, *Surveyor.*

Unexpended balance, ...	$136 85
Appropriation for 1877, ...	225 00
Total, ...	$361 85
Amount drawn from the treasury, . . .	282 56
Leaving a balance of	$79 29

District No. 7.

Josiah Q. Hartwell, *Surveyor.*

Unexpended balance, ...	$51 67
Appropriation for 1877, ...	200 00
Total, ...	$251 67
Amount drawn from the treasury, . . .	189 85
Leaving a balance of	$61 82

The town raised the sum of $750 for repairing the road extending westerly from Albert Copeland's, remodelling the bridge over Matfield River, and other specialties. Said road near Albert Copeland's has been repaired at a cost of $128.82. One hundred dollars of said sum was put into the hands of the surveyor in District No. 5 for a special repairing, and $6.52 was used in repairing the bridge over Town River, towards Scotland. The bridge over Matfield River has not been rebuilt.

The Selectmen obtained proposals for furnishing covering stones suitable for that bridge, and estimates for other stonework for the same, which would make the cost of widening and repairing it more than a new bridge ought to cost. And as the bridge appeared to be in a condition as safe as it has been for several years, it was not considered expedient to lay out so much money upon it, and have but an old bridge when done. It was therefore deferred, hoping that some better plan will be suggested.

In the action brought against the town by H. P. Caswell, to recover damage for an injury which he alleges that he sustained in consequence of a defect in a road in this town, the case was prepared for trial. But before the trial came on a proposition was made by the complainant's counsel to compromise his claim for the sum of $500. As the sum is small in comparison with damages which might be obtained by a verdict, provided the alleged cause and defect could be maintained, and as the testimony which we were enabled to obtain was indefinite and conflicting, in consequence of the great length of time which has elapsed since the alleged defect and injury took place, by the advice of counsel, we accepted the proposition, and settled the claim.

The costs paid for counsel and getting testimony in preparing said case for trial was $203.55. As it did not

appear to make any difference which dollar was used, in the present state of the *currency*, the remainder of the sum raised to repair the Matfield Bridge has been appropriated to cancel the above claim.

Town Farm or Almshouse Account.

Inventory of Personal Property at the Farm, as Appraised February 1, 1878.

8 tons of English hay,	$184 00
2 tons of Hungarian hay,	36 00
4 tons of meadow hay,	50 00
2 oxen,	125 00
5 cows,	200 00
1 horse,	100 00
4 swine,	38 00
105 fowls,	51 00
1 ox-cart,	45 00
1 horse-cart,	45 00
1 cart harness,	15 00
1 express-wagon,	25 00
2 light harnesses,	25 00
1 Buffalo robe and one blanket,	10 00
Hay-rigging, wheels, and farming tools,	110 00
32 bushels of corn,	25 80
400 pounds of meal,	5 00
200 pounds of shorts,	2 50
3 pecks of beans,	1 95
55 bushels of potatoes,	28 25
35 bushels of turnips,	14 00
30 bushels of other roots,	7 50
1 bushel of onions,	75
Butter and eggs,	3 00
Amount carried forward,	$1,147 75

Amount brought forward, . . .	$1,147 75
Flour and groceries, ...	10 00
Beds and bedding, ...	65 00
Stoves and other furniture, ...	80 00
Manure and ashes, ...	120 00
	$1,422 75
Inventory of Feb. 1, 1877, ...	1,699 37
Shrinkage of personal property, . . .	$276 62

A team-horse and two horse-carts and cart harnesses have been sold during the year, and one cow has been added to the stock; otherwise the property is about equal to the inventory of last year. Decline in value causes most of the difference.

The Almshouse.

Dr.

To paying J. C. Leighton's salary for 1 year,	$354 16
for hired labor, ...	65 00
for smithwork, ...	18 85
for doctor's bill, ...	17 00
for medicines, ...	1 96
for snuff and tobacco, ...	2 95
for tools, ...	13 61
for repairs, ...	13 40
for wares, ...	9 64
for lumber, ...	12 85
for use of mowing-machine, &c., .	2 50
for paper-hangings, ...	3 19
for use of team, ...	2 50
Amount carried forward, . . .	$517 61

Amount brought forward,	. . .	$517 61
To paying for use of stock,	. . . .	6 50
for fowls,	. . . . .	2 50
for grass and garden seeds,	. .	14 18
for seed potatoes,	. . .	6 14
for fertilizers,	. . . .	70 50
for lime,	. . . . .	1 70
for salt,	. . . . .	4 68
for oils,	. . . . .	4 86
for soap,	. . . . .	6 08
for bedding,	. . . .	13 94
for clothing,	. . . .	22 40
for meat,	. . . . .	52 29
for fish,	. . . . .	18 72
for cheese,	. . . . .	4 21
for apples,	. . . . .	3 15
for beans,	. . . . .	3 65
for grain, flour, and crackers,	.	300 89
for groceries,	. . . .	68 23
for sundries,	. . . .	6 07
for two oxen,	. . . .	125 00
for one cow,	. . . .	40 00
for rye for seed,	. . . .	2 00
		$1,295 30

Cr.

By cash for butter sold,	. . . . .	$175 16
for milk sold,	. . . . .	23 66
for calves sold,	. . . .	34 20
for fowls sold,	. . . . .	85 36
for eggs sold,	. . . . .	69 85
for pork sold,	. . . . .	30 89
Amount carried forward,	. . .	$419 12

Amount brought forward, . . .	$419 12
By cash for lard sold, ...	3 29
for hay sold, ...	67 74
for potatoes sold, ...	23 97
for turnips and other vegetables sold,	14 60
for other articles sold, . . .	2 96
for work off the farm, . . .	41 60
for entertainment, ...	2 25
for oxen sold, ...	150 00
for horse, two carts and two harnesses sold, ...	125 00
Bills due the almshouse for work for individuals, ...	15 25
Bills due the almshouse for hay sold, . .	10 90
for other productions sold, . . .	15 70
Credit for work on the roads, for surveyors,	38 30
for other highway work, . . .	1 50
for going with the hearse, . . .	52 50
Entertaining 95 tramps, at 50 cents each, .	47 50
	$1,032 18

The number of persons supported as paupers at the almshouse during the year was two and $\frac{27}{52}$, or equal to one person for 133 weeks. There has been drawn from the town treasury, for the almshouse, . . $736 02

If we deduct therefrom the credits to the town in the foregoing accounts, to wit:—

Bills due the house, . . .	$41 85
Work done on the roads, . .	39 80
Going with the hearse, . .	52 50
Amount carried forward, .	$134 15

Amount brought forward, .	$134 15	
Entertaining tramps, . . .	47 50	
Oxen sold from the farm, . .	150 00	
		$331 65

It appears to have cost the sum of . . $404 37
besides the income of the farm to support two and $\frac{27}{52}$
paupers at the almshouse during the year.

POOR OUT OF THE ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for Michael Ryan, at Taunton Hospital,	$61 65
for John Shields, at Northampton, .	20 68
for conveying Fred E. Vining to Tewksbury, ...	7 20
for J. F. Curtis, at New Bedford, and removing him to the almshouse, .	24 80
for Mary W. Brainard, . . .	43 00
for aid and funeral expenses for Mrs. Polly Reed, ...	42 50
for aid and funeral expenses for William J. Stanley, ...	71 98
for aid to Mrs. Hannah Lathrop, . .	52 00
for aid to Mrs. Barbara O'Neil and family,	20 00
for aid to Mrs. Rhobe Jackson, at Somerset, ...	78 00
for aid to John McGann's family, at Taunton, ...	38 38
for aid to Daniel T. Eaton and family, at Taunton, ...	11 90
for aid to Caleb T. Hervey's family, at Taunton, ...	2 60
for aid to Mrs. Mary White, at Boston,	2 00
Amount carried forward, . . .	$476 69

Amount brought forward, . . .	$476 69
Paid for funeral expenses of John Pool, at Taunton, ...	27 50
for aid to Joseph Morse and family, .	33 00
for aid to Joshua Morse and family, .	19 74
for aid to Galen Howard, . . .	10 00
	$566 93

Aid has been paid to poor of other towns and cities, who were living in this town at the time, as follows :—

The family of Wm. Freeman of Boston, .	$3 28
John D. C. Wright of Sandwich, . . .	30 91
S. A. Morse of Worcester, ...	175 00
	$209 19

All of which has been refunded.

The annual town meeting will be held on Monday, the fourth day of March next, at one o'clock, P. M.

JAMES HOWARD,
HENRY W. LEACH,
HENRY COPELAND,
Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor.

WEST BRIDGEWATER, Feb, 1, 1878.

LIST OF JURORS FOR 1878.

As prepared by the Selectmen.

Cyrus Alger.
Charles Atwell.
Charles W. Bacon.
Horace Bartlett.
Lyman E. Copeland.
Caleb Copeland, Jr.
Davis Copeland.
Lucius Dunbar.
Curtis Eddy.
Edward W. Hayward.
John L. Hayward.
Benjamin Howard.
Horace W. Howard.
Henry W. Leach.
Cyrus Leonard.
Elihu Leonard.
Henry S. Keith.
Aaron Millett.
Bradford Packard.
Clarkson W. Richards.
George D. Ryder.
Thomas Snell.
Ebenezer Taylor.
Erland Thayer.
Joseph Vosmus.
Henry H. Whitman.

GUIDE-BOARDS.

The Selectmen recommend that guide-boards be maintained at or near the following-named places :—

Joshua T. Ryder's.
Justin W. Richards's.
Joseph Kingman's.
Lewis Ryder's.
Pine Hill cemetery.
Charles Howard's.
West of almshouse.
Edmund Geary's.
Pardon Copeland's.
North Centre school-house.
Heman Copeland's.
Nahum Leonard's, 2.
J. Q. Hartwell's.
John Walker's, 2.
Molbry Ripley's.
James Alger's furnace.
Cyrus P. Brown's.
Joseph Alger's.
Barnabus Dunbar's.
Stillman W. Hersey's.
Dwelley Fobes's.
Benjamin Howard's.
George Wilbar's.
John B. Holmes's.
D. H. Baker's store.
Centre post-office.
Thomas Mackin's.
Waldo Howard's.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

Marriages Recorded in West Bridgewater in 1877.

Aug. 1, Edward R. Leonard of Raynham and Charlotte K. Richards of West Bridgewater.

Oct. 2, Charles T. Howard of Easton and Helen I. Hartwell of West Bridgewater.

6, Thomas Mason and Miranda Lambert, both of West Bridgewater.

20, John W. Tobey of Middleborough and Mary E. Dunbar of West Bridgewater.

Nov. 10, Eugene F. Alger and Lucy P. Walker, both of West Bridgewater.

Dec. 9, James O. Alger and Carrie E. Flagg, both of West Bridgewater.

Intentions of Marriage Recorded, of which no Return has been made of the Marriage.

James H. Shields of West Bridgewater and Hannah L. Conway of Brockton.

John Crowley of West Bridgewater and Mary Coll of Bridgewater.

Frank N. Churchill of West Bridgewater and Florence W. Harris of East Bridgewater.

Nathan F. Dunbar of Providence and Harriet L. Packard of West Bridgewater.

Herbert W. Ramsdell of Brockton and Lizzie F. Wild of West Bridgewater.

Births Registered in West Bridgewater in 1877.

Date of Birth.	NAME OF CHILD.	Sex.	Names of Parents.
1877.			
Feb. 7,	Everett A. Churchill,	Male,	Rodney and Hannah G. Churchill.
17,	Albert Wallace Wixon,	"	William W. and Cynthia B. Wixon.
March 26,	George S. Freeman,	"	William and Elizabeth Freeman.
April 1,	Honora Hayes,	Female,	John and Ellen Hayes.
3,	Cornelia Alger,	"	Edmund L. and Sarah C. Alger.
11,	Jessie Janett Lothrop,	"	Edwin H. and Lucy A. Lothrop.
May 10,	Julia May Billings,	"	Edgar and Nancy F. Billings.
12,	Frederic O'Conner,	Male,	Patrick and Margaret O'Conner.
21,	Hetty Ann Turner,	Female,	William and Mary Turner.
25,	Jane Bartlett,	"	Horace and Abigail Bartlett.
27,	Edmund Preston Alger,	Male,	Howard and MaryE. Alger.
31,	Mary C. McManiman,	Female,	Bernard and Bridget McManiman.
June 29,	Esther Josephine Shaw,	"	Austin A. and Mary A. Shaw.
July 29,	Mary Louisa Shields,	"	James H. and Hannah L. Shields.
Aug. 31,	Beatrice A. McCord,	"	Archibald and Mary M. McCord.
Sept. 2,	Catharine Kent,	"	Philip and Margaret Kent.
8,	Helen Hayes,	"	Michael and Mary Hayes.
17,	——— Marshall,	Male,	William H. and Rheuama A. Marshall.
18,	Harold William Flagg,	"	Loren A. and Loraine Flagg.
27,	Sewall Mitchell,	"	Henry G. and Eudora Mitchell.
Oct. 7,	Albert F. Fobes,	"	James A. and Harriet C. Fobes.
Nov. 2,	John Courtney.	"	John and Margaret Courtney.
3,	——— Murphy,	Female,	——— Elizabeth Murphy.*

* Parentage supposed to be misrepresented.

Births registered in West Bridgewater in 1877—Concluded.

Date of Birth.	NAME OF CHILD.	Sex.	Names of Parents.
Nov. 6,	Frank Hartwell Godfrey, . .	Male, .	Elijah A. and Delia Godfrey.
20,	Joseph McDonald, . .	Male twins,	Philip and Rose McDonald.
20,	James Edward McDonald,		
Dec. 8,	Alice Carlton Pope, . . .	Female, .	George F. and Clara B. Pope.
30,	John Crowley, ...	Male, .	John and Mary Crowley.

The following births were not registered when they occurred:—

1873. Feb. 3,	Lilla M. Alger, . . .	Female, .	Edmund L. and Sarah C. Alger.
1874. Dec. 25,	Franklin Howard, . . .	Male, .	Hiram and Helen Howard.
1876. March 9,	Mary Ann Morse, . . .	Female, .	Joshua and Cecil Morse.
Nov. 30,	Bertha N. Walker, . . .	" .	Samuel J. and Belle Walker.

Deaths Registered in West Bridgewater in 1877.

Date.	NAME OF DECEASED.	Age. Yr.	M.	D.	Disease, or Cause of Death.	Place of Birth.	Names of Parents.
1877.							
Jan. 2,	Dulcina Howard,	55	2	5	Cancers,	W. Bridgewater,	Samuel and Betsey Dunbar.
3,	Michael Dunn,	31	–	–	Consumption,	Ireland,	William and Elizabeth Dunn.
Mar. 8,	Amanda Mason,	49	–	–	– –	Great Falls, N. H.,	Amasa and Sarah C. Howard.
Apr. 1,	Abigail P. Ames,	63	9	22	Dropsy,	W. Bridgewater,	William and Sarah Dunbar.
14,	Paul Townsend,	70	3	11	Inflammation of liver and stomach,	Barnard, Vt.,	Paul and Fannie Townsend.
May 1,	Eliza A. Tinkham,	62	6	3	Cancer,	Farmington, Me.,	Aaron and Affa G. Higgins.
8,	Mary W. Copeland,	79	7	19	Paralysis,	Middleborough,	Uriah and Serena Sampson.
June 3,	William J. Stanley,	49	1	20	Consumption,	Ireland,	– –
19,	Huldah T. Pratt,	47	8	13	Cancerous humor,	Anson, Me.,	Oren and Achsah Tinkham.
Aug. 3,	Sarah Jane Ripley,	47	5	28	Dropsy,	W. Bridgewater,	Molbry and Data M. Ripley.
6,	Jeremiah Thayer,	74	10	–	Paralysis,	" "	Abijah and Sally Thayer.
23,	Jason M. French,	63	6	25	Paralysis and cholera morbus,	Milton,	Alexander and Charlotte C. French.
Sept. 3,	Julia May Billings,	–	3	24	Cholera infantum,	W. Bridgewater,	Edgar and Nancy F. Billings.
18,	Joshua Morse,	49	11	27	Internal hemorrhage,	Stoughton,	Joshua and Silence Morse.
28,	Betsey C. Copeland,	66	10	14	Heart disease,	W. Bridgewater,	Barzillai and Vesta Carey.
Oct. 10,	Susan Pratt,	87	5	22	Influenza,	" "	Jonathan and Patience Ames.
16,	Richard Thayer,	79	2	5	Dysentery,	" "	Richard and Eunice Thayer.
29,	Seneca Folsom,	66	5	29	Cancer,	Augusta, Me.,	Gorden and Nancy Folsom.
Nov. 20,	Abigail Snell,	95	6	20	Old age,	E. Bridgewater,	John and Bethia Hudson.
Dec. 16,	Jacob White Ryder,	31	7	20	Consumption,	W. Bridgewater,	George D. and Mary R. Ryder.
17,	Emma W. Turner,	33	2	25	"	" "	Edward W. and Stella Hayward.
29,	Eliza C. Keith,	63	1	9	Dropsy,	" "	Austin and Mehitabel Keith.

There is a statute law in Massachusetts which requires all parents and householders to inform the town clerk of the town in which they live, of all births which take place in their families or houses; and a *fine* of five dollars is made the penalty for every *neglect* of said duty; and yet it is never done. But we frequently hear parents assert that "No one came round to take the birth and name of *that child*." If they would notify the Registrar *when* to "*come round*," we presume that he would not neglect his duty.

JAMES HOWARD,

Town Clerk.

REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The School Committee submit their Annual Report of the expenses and condition of the schools and school property of the town for the year ending March 1, 1878, as follows: —

Cochesett Schools.

Wages of teacher (grammar)	$320 00
" " (primary), ...	272 00
Fuel for both schools, ...	36 25
Care of house and fires, ...	10 00
Repairs, ...	18 50
	$656 75

Centre School.

Wages of teacher, ...	$399 00
Fuel, ...	43 50
Care of house, ...	9 00
Repairs, ...	52 49
	$503 99

Jerusalem School.

Wages of teacher, ...	$272 00
Fuel, ...	24 00
Care of house, ...	5 00
Repairs, ...	8 90
	$309 90

North School.

Wages of teacher, ...	$272 00
Fuel, ...	16 25
Care of house, ...	5 00
Repairs, ...	47 57
	$340 82

North Centre School.

Wages of teacher, ...	$272 00
Fuel, ...	22 50
Care of house, ...	5 00
Repairs, ...	8 40
	$307 90

South Schools.

Wages of teacher (intermediate), . .	$272 00
" " (primary), . . .	272 00
Fuel for both schools, ...	22 50
Care of both houses, ...	10 00
Repairs, ...	41 29
	$617 79

East School.

Wages of teacher, ...	$288 00
Fuel, ...	27 00
Care of house, ...	5 00
Repairs, ...	17 11
	$337 11
Paid to the town of East Bridgewater for tuition of children in that town, . .	109 68

Paid to the town of Easton for tuition of 3 children in that town, . . .	$10 00
for case of crayons, ...	14 25
for one dozen brooms, . . .	3 50
Total for support of schools, . . .	$2,999 68
for repairs, ...	212 01

Appropriated for support of schools, . .	$2,500 00
Received from state school fund, . .	237 83
from dividend under dog law, .	224 74
Balance from 1876, ...	1,841 85
	$4,804 42
Paid for support of schools, . . .	2,999 68
Unexpended March 1, 1878, . . .	$1,804 74

REPAIRS.

Appropriated, 1877, ...	$200 00
Balance from 1876, ...	142 58
	$342 58
Paid for repairs, 1877, ...	212 01
Unexpended March 1, 1878, . . .	$130 57

The Committee recommend that $2,650 be appropriated, together with the dividend accruing under the dog law, for the support of schools during the coming year. This is a somewhat larger amount than was raised last year, but experience seems to warrant the opinion that the

Centre School should have an assistant teacher. The uniform testimony of those best acquainted with the condition of the school is, that the experiment in that direction, tried last summer, accomplished excellent results. In an ungraded school as large as that at the Centre, the exercises must all be hurried in some degree; the teacher, however faithful, being unable to devote sufficient time to ensure thorough instruction. The desired relief might be obtained by reopening the primary school in the small school-house, or by furnishing a school-room in the basement of the house now used. Either of these methods would be more expensive than that recommended above, and would seem to promise less satisfactory results. The Committee are satisfied that the town should appropriate an amount sufficient for that purpose, in addition to that voted a year ago.

The school property is in good condition, some minor repairs being needed. Several of the houses should be painted inside, and the floor in the basement of the Centre school-house is much worn, and should be relaid. Two hundred dollars will probably be sufficient for all needed repairs, and the Committee agree in recommending that the town appropriate that amount for that purpose.

There were 329 children in this town between the ages of five and fifteen years on the first day of May last. Of this number, twelve attend school in East Bridgewater.

Three of the board elected last March declined serving; viz., Messrs. F. E. Howard, Albert Copeland, and Joshua T. Ryder. Messrs. Leavitt T. Howard, James A. Fobes, and Curtis Eddy were chosen to fill the vacancies. In addition to the above named, the term of office to which Mr. Pratt was elected expires with the present school year. There are, therefore, four members to be elected at

the next meeting of the town,—two for a term of three years, and two for two years.

George M. Pratt,
Andrew J. Goss,
Henry W. Leach,
Leavitt T. Howard,
James A. Fobes,
Curtis Eddy,

School Committee.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

Gentlemen of the School Committee:

The first subject in order in the annual report of the condition of the schools is that of attendance. The table of statistics gives the percentage of attendance, together with the average and whole number of scholars, for the several schools during each term. The percentage for the summer term is .90; for the fall term, .88; the winter term, up to the close of the ninth week, .89; giving a total average for the year of .89 per cent.

Scholarship and Studies.

The written reviews of the summer term showed an average of 80 per cent.; for the fall term, of 82 per cent.; and the returns for the winter term, up to the present, indicate an increase, and probably will not fall below 85 per cent. Any comparison of the percentage of tests between the different schools is valueless as a standard of scholarship, since the questions given by the teachers vary so widely in character; and for the same reason, the total average of percentage indicates the condition of our schools more approximately than accurately. This must be necessarily so while the questions are given by the teachers, and not by the Committee. The tests, as a whole, have improved this year; the questions asked being more practical in bearing, and more in line with the proper object of school-work, — mental quickening.

At the beginning of the year, teachers were requested

to continue the daily exercises in mental arithmetic, orally and from the charts, and also to give their pupils as much work outside the book as practicable on every topic studied. These suggestions have been faithfully carried out, and with results which, if not always directly apparent, are none the less valuable. In arithmetic, perhaps more than any other study, scholars fail to acquire working power independent of the book and the teacher. With the book before them, the rule, and a class of familiar examples, they acquit themselves creditably; but with the majority of pupils, and more especially "first classes," knowledge begins and ends here. It is simply book-knowledge. And how to counteract this tendency to mental paralysis — for it virtually amounts to that — is a problem which comes home to every earnest teacher. Of two causes which contribute to this end, one undoubtedly is engendered through false methods of instruction; too much indiscriminate helping by the teacher, too little guiding toward self-help. But this is only one cause, and I am confident it is not the chief. Wrong teaching has less to do with the inability of scholars to use their mental faculties, than the premature study of subjects beyond their capacity. Nearly all children now in our schools are started too early in those departments of arithmetic requiring mental analysis, and dragged from one difficult point to another, till the mind lapses into a chronic state of confusion on the whole subject. That this happens to be more apparent in arithmetic than other studies, by no means indicates that it is confined to this branch. The haste to send children to school, the haste to have them "go through" books, defeats the very object of schools and books. It overloads the mind, cultivating dullness as something belonging to the school-room; and herein parents more than teachers are responsible.

In addition to exercises in numbers, general exercises in physiology have been given twice a week in all the schools. The progress has been excellent, and in every respect better than if text-books had been used.

Drawing has been continued in a majority of the schools, and with a fair degree of success; the East School and South Intermediate ranking first. The great difficulty in the way of the successful introduction of drawing as a regular branch of school-work, lies in the reluctance of teachers to undertake to teach that for which they have had no special training; thus being unfamiliar with the subject, they are liable to exaggerate its difficulties and to depreciate its real value. The same is true of teaching music in schools like ours, limited to the individual talent of the teachers, without instructors for these special branches which larger towns afford. From observation and experience, I am constrained to believe that in ungraded schools of small towns it is unwise to insist upon the teaching of branches outside the actual school necessities, unless the teachers happen to have the desire and ability to take up these extra studies in a way that shall make them really of use. Work half done is worse than undone, for it inculcates habits of carelessness. No committee can enforce the teaching of such branches as drawing and music, in a manner beneficial to pupils, unless teachers possess such special qualifications as make it possible of achievement.

Writing has received its usual share of attention. Decided improvement is noticeable in the writing of the test exercises in many of the schools, as well as in the spelling of these exercises.

In addition to the written reviews, the first reading class of the Centre School, numbering ten pupils, have written abstracts on their reading for the term,—*Ancient*

Greek Life, and *Pope's Essay on Man;* the first named, being one of the "*History Primers*," published by Appleton & Co., a class of books admirably fitted to be used in schools. The abstracts showed, that with pupils sufficiently advanced, this kind of reading is far more advantageous than reading from the regular text-book compiled chiefly for rhetorical and elocutionary drill. Our first classes in reading are making no improvement for want of suitable books from which to read. But any general change in this direction must come through the Committee.

The greatest advance made in our schools, as a whole, the past year, has been the successful introduction of the Word Method in teaching the younger classes. It has long been in general use in the larger towns and cities, and by all our more practical educators is conceded to be the better way, because it is the *right way*. When the perceptive faculties of children begin to wake, as they do with the earliest gleam of intelligence, impressions are received as wholes, not as parts; this is a natural law of mind. The child, at first, sees a carriage as a carriage, not as four wheels, two axles, two springs, two shafts, and a cover. And the same is true of his sight of words. The word "horse" is much more easy of grasp as a whole, than the five letters that go to make it. But after the word is known, the letters that compose it are learned with little effort. The learning of words and letters go on together in their proper order, and the spelling follows naturally and easily. The experience of our teachers verifies this, and those who took up the system with doubts are now its warmest advocates. At the beginning of the year, when I asked the teachers to try this method, I put into their hands *Webb's Analytical Primer*, prepared especially for this teaching, and with an introduction designed to direct teachers who had no previous knowl-

edge on the subject. In the fall term, wishing to test the book, as the teachers pronounced it to be better than Monroe's Primer, I put it into three classes,—in the East School, the South Primary, and the Cochesett Primary. The results justified the opinion of the teachers. The progress of these classes was marked over that of others using the Monroe Primer. The advantage which the Analytical Primer offers is wholly in its arrangement; fewer new words come on a page, and words which are not sure to convey ideas are sparingly introduced. The book has stood the test of a fair trial, and I urge the Committee to reconsider their vote against its introduction, and I append for their consideration the following statements from the three teachers who have used it for two terms in their classes.

Mrs. Harlow, of the East School, says: "A year ago I tried teaching my primer class by the Word Method. Previously to that time, I had looked upon the method with disfavor. I used Webb's Analytical Primer, and never before during my teaching did I have scholars improve so rapidly, and read so understandingly. Some persons oppose it, on the ground that children will not learn to spell as quickly as by the old system. With this method, not as much time is required in the class to teach reading, and, consequently, the teacher can give more attention to the spelling, and I have found that the children will spell many words with very little attention from the teacher. I should have far more hesitancy about giving it up than I had in adopting it. The Analytical Primer is far superior to any book I ever used for beginners, from the fact that it introduces but one new word at a time, and that word is used in several succeeding lessons, so that the children become familiar with each word before a new one is taken. In other primers, three or

four new words are often brought into one sentence, which confuses small children very much."

Miss Holmes, of the South Primary School, in her report to me, writes: "I think it is a waste of time to teach the alphabet. The Word Method changes a dull task to delightful work for teacher and scholar. In teaching the names of the letters first, much time is lost, because after a child has learned to read some by the Word Method, he will remember the letters much more readily. I am convinced that in this way the letters are learned without much effort. When they are taught before the words, the child learns nothing that interests him for some time; but beginning with simple words, and most of them names of things, there is something to stimulate and lead him to wish to learn more. I shall never begin with the alphabet again in teaching, having by experience proved that beginning with words is far better in every way. The Analytical Primer is better than Monroe's, because not so many new words are found in each lesson; many small words which are hardest to learn being omitted until the learner has become interested, and can more easily remember new words. I cannot imagine a better book; it makes pleasant work of learning to read."

Miss Wood, of the Cochesett Primary, writes: "A year ago I began to use the Word Method with my class, teaching them from the blackboard. I found that by printing words, and illustrating them as best I could, the children learned more rapidly than by teaching the letters first. In the fall term, the Analytical Primers, on the plan of the Word Method, were given to the class, and I have found it the most successful mode of teaching reading I ever tried. It has many advantages over the old method. With these primers, not so many different new words are used in a lesson, thereby confusing the child. The words

are distinctly printed in large type, and each lesson well illustrated. The pupils become familiar with the looks of the words, and knowing their meaning, learn to read understandingly. My experience has convinced me that by this method no more time is required to teach the word, its spelling, and its letters, than the letters alone by the old way of teaching the letters first."

These reports from three of our most successful teachers, and teachers of long experience, will show to parents, as well as to the Committee, that we really have reason to feel a decided improvement has been made in the starting of our primer classes; and all the schools should have the advantage of the right books for most advantageously carrying out the system.

General Remarks.

The condition of the schools, as a whole, averages fairly with that of preceding years. Those schools show the most thorough and systematic progress, and are soundest under examination, which have had the advantage of retaining the same teacher for several consecutive terms. The East School was unfortunate in losing its faithful and efficient teacher at the close of the fall term, but it is hoped after a vacation, she may be induced to resume her duties in the school-room. Jerusalem has also a new teacher for the winter term; and the North School has had a different teacher each of the three terms. This school has been greatly injured by these frequent changes; for however good teachers may be, each must work in his own way, and the first half of the term, and with inexperienced teachers, even a longer time is spent in testing material and determining the needs of the school. The Centre School has been unusually fortunate in its teacher for two terms; but if the children here are to have equal advantages with

others in the town, there must be two teachers instead of one. In the School Report of last year, I stated the reasons for this quite fully, and the same reasons hold good now. The experiment of one teacher has certainly been fairly tested; indeed, at the close of the last school year, was fairly proved a failure; but a rather questionable economy determined to take the school on another year in face of failure. Now, at the close of the third year, experimenting should give way to action based on the facts of the case.

Respectfully submitted.

MARY A. THAYER,
Superintendent.

Table of Statistics.

NAMES OF TEACHERS.		Length of School in months.	Wages of Teacher per month.	Number of Pupils.	Average Attendance.	Percentage of Attendance.
COCHESETT—*Grammar Department.*						
H. N. Dillingham,	Summer,	2½	$40	32	30	.94
Abbie Brown,	Fall,	2½	40	31	30	.97
	Winter,	3	40	32	30	.94
COCHESETT—*Primary Department.*						
Irene S. Wood,	Summer,	2½	$34	35	41	.86
	Fall,	2½	34	39	34	.87
	Winter,	3	34	38	33	.87
CENTRE SCHOOL.						
H. Packard, A. W. Packard,	Summer,	2¼	$60	47	42	.90
W. H. Stone,	Fall,	2½	48	50	45	.90
	Winter,	3	48	49	45	.91
SOUTH INTERMEDIATE.						
M. A. Dewyer,	Summer,	2½	$36	32	29	.90
	Fall,	2½	36	27	22	.84
	Winter,	3	36	29	25	.87
SOUTH PRIMARY.						
W. A. Holmes,	Summer,	2½	$34	38	34	.88
	Fall,	2½	34	36	31	.86
	Winter,	3	34	34	31	.90
NORTH SCHOOL.						
W. H. Stone,	Summer,	2½	$34	29	25	.86
C. N. Bentley,	Fall,	2½	34	28	24	.86
Laurence Copeland,	Winter,	3	34	25	22	.88
NORTH CENTRE.						
Mrs. L. M. Toothaker,	Summer,	2½	$34	22	21	.96
	Fall	2½	34	23	21	.91
	Winter,	3	34	19	18	.95

Table of Statistics—Continued.

NAMES OF TEACHERS.		Length of School in months.	Wages of Teacher per month.	Number of Pupils.	Average Attendance.	Percentage of Attendance.
EAST SCHOOL.						
Mrs. H. H. Harlow,	Summer,	2½	$36	40	35	.87
	Fall,	2½	36	33	29	.88
M. A. Thayer,	Winter,	3	36	38	32	.87
JERUSALEM.						
A. L. Marble,	Summer,	2½	$34	16	14	.92
	Fall,	2½	34	19	17	.90
Anna Wheeler,	Winter,	3	34	22	20	.90

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

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OF THE

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FOR THE

Year ending January 31, 1879.

BOSTON:
ALBERT J. WRIGHT, PRINTER,
79 Milk Street (corner of Federal).
1879.

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79 MILK STREET (CORNER OF FEDERAL).
1879.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS,

AND

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The following Report, showing the receipts and expenditures of the town for the year ending January 31, 1879, and the liabilities and assets of the town at said date, is respectfully submitted: —

Valuation.

As Assessed May 1, 1878.

Value of real estate,	$704,814 00
of personal,	148,681 00
Total,	$853,495 00

Number of polls,	464
of dwelling-houses taxed,	338
of acres of land "	9,685
of cows "	457
of horses "	297

Assessments.

State tax,	$520 00
County tax,	1,143 86
Town grant,	6,950 00
Total,	$8,613 86

Rate of taxation, $8.50 on $1,000. Poll tax, $2.

Appropriations.

The town voted to appropriate for the support of schools,	$2,650 00
for repairs of school property,	200 00
for repair of roads and bridges,	2,500 00
for support of the poor,	1,000 00
for incidental expenses,	500 00
for public lectures,	100 00
Total,	$6,950 00

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

A Summary of Receipts.

Balance in treasury, February 1, 1878,	$3,251 47
Amount received since,	11,205 83
Total,	$14,457 30

Statement of Receipts.

Received of the county treasurer a dividend from the dog tax of 1878,	$175 12
From state treasurer, bank tax for 1878,	658 82
corporation tax, "	311 47
balance of corporation tax for 1877,	34 57
dividend from the Mass. School Fund,	236 84
Amount carried forward,	$1,416 82

Amount brought forward, . . .	$1,416 82
From state treasurer, reimbursement of aid to soldiers and their families, . . .	426 50
The town, county, and State tax bills for 1878, ...	8,310 65
Six per cent. on 1877 taxes collected after after October 15, 1877, ...	146 86
Money hired, in anticipation of the 1878 taxes, ...	750 00
For oxen sold from the town farm, . .	155 00
Total receipts for the year, . . .	$11,205 83

PAYMENTS.

The treasurer has paid the following sums: —

State tax, ...	$520 00
County tax, ...	1,143 86
Rent of town-hall, ...	75 00
Office-rent, ...	15 00
State aid to soldiers under the Act of 1878,	322 91
aid to soldiers and their families as provided by a previous law, . .	486 00
Three notes and interest, borrowed money,	762 83
For rebuilding Matfield bridge, . . .	355 72
new covering bridge on Scotland road,	139 72
rebuilding a bridge on Spring Street .	18 00
repairs of roads and bridges by surveyors, ...	1,794 28
support of schools, ...	3,227 04
school findings and repairs, . .	230 27
public lectures, ...	100 00
support of poor out of the almshouse, .	240 69
Amount carried forward, . . .	$9,441 32

Amount brought forward, . . .	$9,441 32
For oxen for the town farm, . . .	75 00
two cows, ...	112 00
fertilizer, ...	77 00
grain for the town farm, . . .	69 33
grass-seed for " " . . .	9 13
shingles for " " . . .	75
labor hired, ...	22 58
J. C. Leighton, 2 mos. salary as warden,	58 33
Benj. Butler, 10 mos. " "	250 00
expenses of the herring fishery, . .	58 51
printing, ...	67 72
abatement of taxes, ...	68 79
town officers and committees, . .	521 87
counsel fees, ...	4 00
witness fees, ...	2 20
watching fire in Matfield woods, . .	7 50
postage and express, ...	4 95
blank books and stationery, . .	3 35
travelling expenses, ...	8 17
repairing road scraper, . . .	7 00
Six per cent. discount on tax bills for 1878,	498 64
Total payments, ...	$11,358 14

ASSETS.

Remaining in the treasury, February 1, 1879,	$3,099 16
Due for State aid furnished, . . .	833 41
	$3,932 57

LIABILITIES OF THE TREASURY.

Remainder of the appropriation for schools,	$2,627 28
" " for repairing roads,	768 68
Amount carried forward, . . .	$3,395 96

Amount brought forward, . . .	$3,395 96
Remainder of the appropriation for school findings and repairs, ...	3 73
Total, ...	$3,399 69

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid James Howard, selectman, assessor, overseer of the poor, &c., . .	$135 20
Henry W. Leach, selectman, &c., .	67 65
Henry Copeland, selectman, &c., .	37 00
Geo. M. Pratt, treasurer and collector,	150 00
James Howard, town clerk, . .	28 25
Mary A. Thayer, superintendent of schools, ...	85 27
W. H. Stone, superintendent of schools,	7 00
Eli Wheeler, constable, . . .	9 00
William H. Jennings, moderator, .	2 00
Shaw & Richardson, sextons, . .	7 50
Auditing committee, ...	3 00
	$521 87

SCHOOLS.

The town raised for the support of schools,	$2,650 00
Balance in the treasury, February 1, 1878,	2,742 74
Amount carried forward, . . .	$5,392 74

Amount brought forward, . . .	$5,392 74
The dividend from Mass. School Fund, .	236 84
from the dog tax of 1877, .	224 74
Total, ...	$5,854 32
Drawn from the treasury for the support of schools during the year ending January 31, 1879, ...	3,227 04
Leaving a balance in the treasury of	$2,627 28
As $114.50 of the above payments was for the winter term of schools, therefore, to correspond with last year's balance, for the next year's schools, the remaining sum for that use would be	$2,741 78

For furnishing, and repairs of school property —

The town raised the sum of . . .	$200 00
A balance in the treasury, Feb. 1, 1878, of	34 56
Total, ...	$235 56
Drawn during the year for that purpose, .	230 27
Leaving a balance in the treasury of	$4 29

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The town raised the sum of $2,500 for repairing the roads and bridges, and by a vote of the town, $500 of said

sum was to be used by the selectmen. The remaining $2,000, with the unexpended balances of last year, was divided among the several highway districts as follows: —

District No. 1.

Molbry A. Ripley, *Surveyor.*

Unexpended balance, ...	$114 27
Appropriation for 1878, ...	400 00
Total, ...	$514 27
Amount drawn from the treasury, . .	331 31
Leaving a balance of	$182 96

District No. 2.

Loring A. Flagg, *Surveyor.*

Unexpended balance, ...	$90 29
Appropriation for 1878, ...	250 00
Total, ...	$340 29
Amount drawn from the treasury, . . .	204 00
Leaving a balance of	$136 29

District No. 3.

Erland Thayer, *Surveyor.*

Unexpended balance, ...	$55 12
Appropriation for 1878, ...	325 00
Total, ...	$380 12
Amount drawn from the treasury, . . .	334 61
Leaving a balance of	$45 51

District No. 4.

Pardon Copeland, *Surveyor.*

Unexpended balance, ...	$160 40
Appropriation for 1878, ...	400 00
Total, ...	$560 40
Amount drawn from the treasury, . . .	523 62
Leaving a balance of	$36 78

District No. 5.

Charles Atwell, *Surveyor.*

Unexpended balance, ...	$16 21
Appropriation for 1878, ...	200 00
Total, ...	$216 21
Amount drawn from the treasury, . .	134 46
Leaving a balance of	$81 75

District No. 6.

Barnabas Dunbar, *Surveyor.*

Unexpended balance, ...	$79 29
Appropriation for 1878, ...	225 00
Total, ...	$304 29
Amount drawn from the treasury, . . .	199 29
Leaving a balance of	$105 00

District No. 7.

Josiah Q. Hartwell, *Surveyor.*

Unexpended balance, ...	$61 82
Appropriation for 1878, ...	200 00
Total, ...	$261 82
Amount drawn from the treasury, . .	174 65
Leaving a balance of	$87 17

The sum of $500, placed at the disposal of the Selectmen for repairing roads and bridges, has been expended as follows: They have rebuilt the Matfield Bridge, at a cost of $355.72. The travel of this bridge is made six feet wider than before, and the water-courses are made narrower, and by so doing the covering is much less hazardous than before. The bridge is well built and strong; more commodious and much safer than ever before.

Late in the year it was discovered that the bridge on the Scotland Road, having a single span of thirty feet, had become so rotten as to be unsafe for travel with loaded teams. Lumber was procured and a new covering of the bridge made, on a different plan from the old one, and considered to be stronger, safer, and more durable. The cost was $139.72, besides a few days' work by the man at the town farm.

The Selectmen also rebuilt a small bridge on Spring Street, which cost $18.00. The total cost of the three bridges which they have rebuilt was $513.44, making an excess of $13.44 above the $500, and as the bridge on Spring Street was in District No. 1, the said *excess* was taken from the appropriation for that district.

Condition of the Roads.

The roads of this town, speaking generally or comparatively, are quite good, and have been fairly worked; still, a more timely supervision, and some small repairs, such as the removing of stones and bushes, and filling holes or excavations, would make them much more agreeable and safe for the traveller.

But the principal avenue through the town, Main Street, does not admit of such favorable comparison, nor do we think it proper to pass it without calling the attention of the town to its poor condition. For a road which is used to the extent that our Main Street is, it is in an unsuitable state of repair, and in some places quite unsafe. There is a constant and proper demand for a more constant supervision, and more of general repairs on said road. A road which would be sufficiently good and safe where it was but little used, would be very unsuitable in a location which was used to the extent, and for the purposes which our Main Street is. And a road so used requires much more to maintain it in a passable and a respectable condition. And besides, a good road in such locations is an ornament to a town, and a good investment. We think the town should take some special action in relation to said road.

Town Farm or Almshouse Account.

Inventory of Personal Property at the Farm, as appraised February 1, 1879.

1 horse, ...	$100 00
2 oxen, ...	85 00
6 cows, ...	287 00
3 swine, ...	27 00
Amount carried forward, ...	$499 00

Amount brought forward, . . .	$499 00
36 fowls, ...	18 00
1 ox-cart, ...	43 00
1 horse-cart, ...	42 00
1 express wagon, ...	25 00
2 light harnesses, ...	23 00
1 cart harness, ...	15 00
Buffalo robe and blanket, . . .	7 00
Hay-cart, wheels and farming tools, . .	100 00
40 bushels of corn, ...	30 00
15 bushels of rye, ...	11 25
5 bushels of beans, ...	10 00
7 tons of English hay, ...	126 00
5 tons of meadow hay, ...	50 00
1½ tons of rye straw, ...	15 00
Bedding hay, ...	8 00
Meal, ...	1 50
5 bushels of potatoes, ...	6 00
2 bbls. of apples, ...	2 50
30 lbs. of lard, ...	3 00
10 lbs. of dried apples, ...	1 50
300 lbs. of salt pork, ...	25 00
Flour and groceries, ...	5 00
Beds and bedding, ...	60 00
Stoves and other furniture, . . .	50 00
Manure and fertilizers, ...	120 00
	$1,305 75
Inventory of Feb. 1, 1878, ...	1,422 75
Shrinkage of personal property, . . .	$117 00

The above shrinkage of inventory is due, in part, to a general shrinkage of values, and in part to the fact that

some of the household goods have been removed by one who has been an inmate and who has concluded to take care of herself, and who took away what there was left of the goods which came with her to the house.

When such differences in amount of the appraisal of the personal property are taken into account in estimating the cost of supporting the house, it makes a false appearance, to a certain extent, showing a greater cost than there really is.

The Almshouse.

Dr.

To paying J. C. Leighton's salary, for 2 mos.,	$58	33
Benj'n Butler's salary, for 10 mos.,	250	00
doctor's bill, ...	1	00
for groceries, ...	52	71
for meat and fish, ...	14	52
for flour and bread, ...	33	63
for clothing, ...	29	50
for furniture and furnishings, .	33	77
for soap and oils, ...	8	82
for tools, ...	15	59
for lumber, ...	2	60
for stock bought, ...	187	00
for use of stock, ...	9	00
for fowls bought, ...	9	50
for grass and garden-seeds, . .	17	61
for fertilizers, ...	77	00
for smith work, ...	17	00
for use of wagon, ...		75
for grain, ...	198	95
for labor hired, ...	59	69
for miscellaneous articles, . .	8	59
	$1,085	56

Cr.

By cash	for butter sold,	$254 62
	for eggs sold,	29 74
	for lard sold,	2 25
	for pigs sold,	25 50
	for calves sold,	19 07
	for fowls sold,	69 40
	for cow sold,	25 00
	for oxen sold,	155 00
	for vegetables sold,	11 40
	for milk sold,	1 08
	for labor performed off the farm,	21 05
	for entertainment,	6 50
Credit	for work on roads for the surveyors,	94 22
	for work on bridge,	10 50
	for going with the hearse,	40 00
	for entertaining 78 tramps,	39 00
		$804 33

The number of persons supported as paupers at the almshouse during the year was two and $\frac{43}{52}$, or equal to one person for 147 weeks. There has been drawn from the town treasury, for the almshouse, more than has been returned thereto, $594.12. Take from this sum the four items of credit above named, which amount to $183.72, it will leave $410.40 as the real cost of supporting the establishment for the year.

This cost has been increased during the past year by improvements which have been made on the farm,—such as breaking up, fertilizing, and re-seeding some of the old pasture and depleted mowing-land. Also, improving the quality of the *dairy stock*. The barn on the farm is in need of new shingling and other repairs, which should be attended to in the coming season.

Poor out of the Almshouse.

Paid for aid to J. S. Eaton, at New Bedford, .	$11 50
for funeral expenses of J. F. Curtis at Middleborough, ...	15 50
for coffin for Mrs. C. M. Packard, . .	12 50
for coffin for Joseph Morse's child, . .	6 00
for digging a grave for L. T. Packard, .	2 00
for aid to Jonas Leonard, . . .	6 00
for aid to Mrs. Barbara O'Neil, . .	16 00
for aid to Mrs. S. P. Bailey, ...	9 75
for doctor's bill for Mrs. Joshua Morse, .	8 00
for aid to H. D. James and family, at Brockton, ...	11 12
for aid to Mrs. H. Lothrop, at East Bridgewater	52 00
for aid to Caleb Hervey's family at Taunton, ...	59 82
for aid to Daniel T. Eaton's family, at Taunton, ...	20 50
for aid to Mary McGann, at Taunton, .	10 00
Total paid, ...	$240 69

By the provisions of a statute law, passed in 1867, giving State aid to soldiers and their families, and for families of the slain, the town treasurer, by the selectmen's order, has paid the sum of $486 to the following persons:—

James P. Gallagher.	Mrs. Mary J. Reeves.
Patrick Dorgon.	Mrs. Mary E. Kingman.
John A. Frees.	Mrs. Salome Stetson.
Charles T. Morse.	Mrs. Lucinda S. Lathrop.
Mrs. Mary E. Howard.	Francis W. Wood.

By an Act passed by the legislature May 17, 1878, and repealed Jan. 21, 1879, entitled "An Act to provide Additional Pay to Poor and Indigent Soldiers and Sailors," the sum of $322.91 has been paid to the following named persons :—

Ezekiel Ames.	Edward S. Jacobs.
William E. Cole.	Andrew W. Perkins.
William O. Alger.	Benjamin F. Phillips
Henry Clark.	William H. Jennings.
George H. French.	Timothy Mullens.
Timothy W. Fisher.	William B. Smith.
Ellis R. Holbrook.	Rufus G. Smith.
James H. Leonard.	Cyrus Willis.

The annual town meeting will be held Monday, the third day of March next, at one o'clock, P. M.

JAMES HOWARD,
HENRY W. LEACH,
HENRY COPELAND,

Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor.

WEST BRIDGEWATER, Feb. 1, 1879.

LIST OF JURORS FOR 1879.

As prepared by the Selectmen.

Cyrus Alger.
Charles W. Bacon.
Horace Bartlett.
Davis Copeland.
John Copeland.
Lucius Dunbar.
Curtis Eddy.
William B. Farwell.
Edward W. Hayward.
John L. Hayward.
Benjamin B. Howard.
Clinton P. Howard.
Horace W. Howard.
Henry S. Keith.
Henry W. Leach.
Cyrus Leonard.
Seba H. Marshall.
Aaron Millett.
Bradford Packard.
Francis Perkins.
Clarkson W. Richards.
Ebenezer Taylor.
Erland Thayer.
Charles E. Tisdale.
Joseph Vosmus.

GUIDE-BOARDS.

The Selectmen recommend that guide boards be maintained at or near the following-named places :—

Joshua T. Ryder's.
Justin W. Richards's.
Joseph Kingman's.
Lewis Ryder's.
Pine Hill Cemetery.
Charles Howard's.
West of Almshouse.
Edmund Geary's.
Pardon Copeland's.
North Centre School-house.
Heman Copeland's.
Nahum Leonard's, 2.
J. Q. Hartwell's.
John Walker's, 2.
Molbry Ripley's.
James Alger's furnace.
Cyrus P. Brown's.
Joseph Alger's.
Barnabas Dunbar's.
Stillman W. Hersey's.
Dwelley Fobes'.
Benjamin Howard's.
George Wilbar's.
John B. Holmes'.
D. H. Baker's store.
Centre Post-office.
Thomas Mackin's.
Waldo Howard's.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

Marriages Recorded in West Bridgewater in 1878.

Jan. 9. James Copeland and Betsey H. Snell, of West Bridgewater.

24. George A. Morse and Marianna L. Hayward, both of West Bridgewater.

May 26. Amos G. Fuller, of Rehoboth, and Emily M. Wetherell, of Norton.

July 3. Thomas W. Howard, of Easton, and Laura L. Lothrop, of West Bridgewater.

9. William Michie, of Boston, and Alice Howard, of West Bridgewater.

23. Charles H. Morey and Georgianna Pittsley, both of this town.

Aug. 27. Merton C. Johnson and Emeline O. Packard, both of West Bridgewater.

Nov. 17. Charles N. Martin, of West Bridgewater, and Elizabeth Clark, of East Bridgewater.

19. Josiah W. Foye, of Brockton, and Helen Howard, of West Bridgewater.

Dec. 11. Charles J. Turner and Fanny J. Rounds, both of West Bridgewater,

26. Molbry A. Ripley and Elizabeth P. Allen, both of West Bridgewater.

Births Registered in West Bridgewater in 1878.

Date of Birth.	NAME OF CHILD.	Sex.	Name of Parents.
1878.			
March 2,	Addie E. Wixon,	Female,	William W. and Cynthia B. Wixon.
21,	James Toomey,	Male,	John and Mary Toomey.
28,	Anna Blanch Lynch.	Female,	Daniel and Joanna Lynch.
April 13,	Mary Ellen Mullens,	"	Timothy and Mary Ann Mullens.
June 23,	William Edward Reeves,	Male,	John E. and Caroline Reeves.
30,	Sanford Alger,	"	Charles S. and Ellen T. Alger.
July 1,	Charles Milton Ames,	"	Charles P. and Harriet E. Ames.
2,	Mary Ellen Ryder,	Female,	William and Ellen Ryder.
Aug. 4,	Clara Jane Miller,	"	Elbridge E. and Sarah E. Miller.
5,	George H Morse,	Male,	George E. and Marianna L. Morse.
Sept. 18,	Mabel H. Wilder,	Female,	Frederic and Lucretia A. Wilder.
30,	Mary Edith Shipman,	"	William N. and Sarah F. Shipman.
Oct. 3,	Clarence C. Howard,	Male,	Willard and Sarah M. Howard,
6,	Emily Elizabeth Morey.	Female,	Charles H. and Georgianna Morey.
7,	James Henry Alger,	Male.	James O. and Carrie E. Alger.
Nov. 3,	Edna V. Alger,	Female,	Eugene F. and Lucy P. Alger.
17,	Eugene Sullivan,	Male,	Philip and Mary Sullivan.
30,	Fred Loring,	"	William S. and Clara E. Loring,
Dec. 22,	——— Leonard,	"	Andrew L. and Anna Leonard.

Deaths Registered in West Bridgewater in 1878.

Date.	NAME OF DECEASED.	Age. Yr.	M.	D.	Place of Birth.	Disease, or Cause of Death.	Names of Parents.
1878.							
Jan. 3,	Harriet Howard,	72	11	3	W. Bridgewater,	Heart disease,	Galen and Sally Howard.
14,	Joseph W. Morse,	7	4	7	" "	Consumption,	Joseph and Mary J. Morse.
26,	James Alger,	61	4	28	" "	Dropsy,	Abiezer and Anna C. Alger.
Feb. 5,	Michael Dunn,	1	4	10	" "	Dropsy on the brain,	William and Ann Dunn.
18,	Louisa Howard,	79	2	21	Warren, R. I.,	Softening of brain,	Elisha and Hannah Carpenter.
23,	Celinda Seaver,	57	10	–	W. Bridgewater,	Consumption,	Simeon and Sybil Taylor.
26,	Henry W. Alger,	23	10	8	" "	Perforation of intestines,	James and Caroline B. Alger.
Mar. 21,	David Ryan,	33	–	–	Ireland,	Dyspepsia,	Thomas and Catharine Ryan.
Apr. 9,	Catharine M. Packard,	38	4	19	North Bridgewater,	Consumption,	Ebenezer and Catharine Whitmarsh.
20,	Elizabeth Millett,	67	8	–	W. Bridgewater,	Pneumonia,	John and Abigail Holmes.
May 9,	Mary B. Alger,	59	6	13	Falmouth,	Pleuro-pneumonia,	Edmund and Rebecca Landers.
19,	Levi T. Packard,	50	8	19	W. Bridgewater,	Apoplexy,	—— and Lucy Packard.
25,	Benjamin Marshall,	80	4	6	North Bridgewater,	Old age,	Hayward and Olive Marshall.
30,	Abigail Alger,	59	8	23	W. Bridgewater,	Apoplexy of lungs,	Jonathan and Abigail Snell.
June 25,	Mary R. Washburn,	30	3	12	Charlestown,	Consumption,	Charles and Sophia W. Reed.
Aug. 6,	Isaac Edgcomb,	75	9	1	Bath, Me.,	Old age,	John and Sarah Edgcomb.
25,	Emily J. Lincoln,	29	–	5	East Bridgewater,	Dropsy,	James P. and Rebecca Lincoln.
31,	Sylvanus P. Bailey,	47	7	13	Plymouth,	Typhoid Fever,	Melvin and Maria Bailey.
Sept. 6,	Lizzie A. Lothrop,	19	5	22	W. Bridgewater,	Consumption,	John M. and Olive J. Alger.
12,	Addie E. Wixon,	–	6	10	" "	Marasmus,	Wm. W. and Cynthia B. Wixon.
19,	Frank H. Godfrey,	–	10	13	" "	–	Elijah A. and Delia B. Godfrey.
19,	Almira McKeever,	35	4	25	Waterville, Me.,	Gastric fever,	David W. and Eliza Tinkham.
Oct. 10,	Data Ripley,	80	3	18	Yarmouth,	Diarrhœa,	John and Sarah Bray.
Dec. 3,	Sanford Alger,	73	–	16	W. Bridgewater,	Congestion of lungs,	Ebenezer and —— Alger.
27,	William L. Nylin,	14	3	11	Sweden,	Consumption,	William and Anna C. Nylin.

JAMES HOWARD, *Town Clerk.*

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The School Committee submit their Annual Report of the expenses and condition of the schools and school property of the town, for the year ending March 1, 1879, as follows:—

Cochesett Schools.

Wages of teacher (grammar),	$355 00
Wages of teacher (primary),	275 00
Fuel,	28 00
Care of house,	10 00
Repairs,	105 25
	$770 25

Centre Schools.

Wages of teacher (grammar).	$317 00
Wages of teacher (primary),	210 00
Fuel,	40 15
Care of house,	8 00
Repairs,	56 52
	$631 67

Jerusalem School.

Wages of teacher,	$272 00
Fuel,	19 00
Care of house,	6 00
Repairs,	7 75
	$304 75

North School.

Wages of teacher,	$272 00
Fuel,	19 00
Care of house,	5 00
Repairs,	27 54
	$323 54

North Centre Schools.

Wages of teacher,	$246 00
Fuel,	20 50
Care of house,	5 00
Repairs,	1 10
	$273 10

South Schools.

Wages of teacher (grammar),	$272 00
Wages of teacher (primary),	272 00
Fuel,	29 00
Care of houses,	10 00
Repairs,	26 21
	$609 21

East School.

Wages of teacher,	$288 00
Fuel,	22 50
Care of house,	5 00
Repairs,	16 82
	$332 32

Paid the Town of East Bridgewater, for the tuition of scholars in that town,	$133 65
Total for the support of schools,	$3,136 80

Appropriated for the support of schools,	$2,650 00
Received from the Mass. School Fund, .	236 84
Received from dividend under dog law, 1877,	224 74
Received from dividend under dog law, 1878,	175 12
Balance from 1877, ...	1,804 74
	$5,091 44
Paid for support of schools, . . .	3,136 80
Unexpended, March 1, 1879, . .	$1,954 64

REPAIRS.

Appropriated for repairs 1878, . .	$200 00
Balance from 1877, ...	130 00
	$330 00
Paid for repairs, 1878, ...	241 25
Unexpended, March 1, 1879, . .	$88 75

Although retrenchment is the order of the times, the Committee do not feel justified in recommending the town to raise a less sum for the support of schools, than the sum raised last year; therefore we unite in recommending that the town appropriate the sum of $2,650, together with the dividend accruing from the dog law.

The condition of the schools, on an average, is full as good as a year ago, and in some of them there has been a marked and decided improvement. What seems to be needed now is a generous appropriation by the town, that the services of good and efficient teachers may be secured, and the earnest, hearty coöperation of all interested in the schools — scholars, teachers, parents, and friends of education — and our schools will be a success.

The evils of truancy exist in all our schools, and in some of them affect the rate of attendance at the rate of nearly twenty per cent. The Committee recommend the appointment of an efficient truant officer, and that he be instructed to faithfully enforce the truant laws of the State.

The school property is in good condition, but as it is not economy to let it deteriorate, and there are always some minor repairs needed, the Committee agree in recommending that the town appropriate $200 for that purpose. There were on the first day of May last, 324 persons in town between the ages of five and fifteen years. Of this number fifteen attend school in East Bridgewater.

Two of the board elected last March declined serving; viz., Mr. Montgomery and Miss Kingman. Messrs. James A. Fobes and Erland Thayer were chosen to fill the vacancies. In addition to the above-named, the term of office to which Messrs. Leach and Goss were elected expires with the present school year. Therefore there are four members to be elected at the next meeting of the town; two for the term of three years, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of one year. For a more extended and minute report of the condition of the schools, we refer you to the report of the Superintendent of Schools, which accompanies this Report.

LUCIUS DUNBAR,
Chairman.

ALBERT A. COPELAND,
Secretary.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

Gentlemen of the School Committee:

Of the ten schools now maintained by the town, nearly all are in excellent condition, and are accomplishing results highly creditable to both teachers and pupils.

In a majority of cases, however, the work done would have been more complete and satisfactory had the attendance been less irregular.

In this respect there is a marked decrease from last year. Then the total average reached .89, whereas during the present year it has fallen to .75, showing a positive loss of .14. Undoubtedly the chief cause of this diminution is directly attributable to sickness prevailing in several districts during the spring, by which the number of scholars was greatly reduced—in one instance nearly half.

In some cases, also, parents have found it necessary to require the assistance of their children at home, or the earnings gained by their labor; and in some few instances they may have felt obliged to keep them out of school through inability to furnish suitable clothing.

Probably such circumstances of pressing need occur but rarely, but when they do, the town, after thorough investigation of the facts, ought certainly to make the requisite provision. Every child has a right to instruction in the elements of a sound practical education as a means of self-support. Any community neglecting to secure this privilege to all, not only fails in its duty, but imperils its own interests, by permitting one more individual to grow up

in that state of helpless ignorance which almost invariably leads to pauperism and crime, thus adding another burden to those that now tax our industry and cast reproach upon our civilization.

For a like reason truancy should be dealt with vigorously and without delay. Complaints of its increase are reported in different quarters, and if allowed to go on unchecked it must soon become a serious evil. At present no remedy exists, but it is hoped that the town will take action at its annual meeting, authorizing the committee to appoint and pay a truant-officer, able and willing to enforce the State law. Should this be done the good effects would be speedily perceptible in both schools and homes.

Shortly after the commencement of the first term, the teacher in the Centre, having received an invitation to take charge of a grammar school in Danvers, resigned his position here in order to accept it.

The change came at a particularly unfortunate time. The scholars were making more than ordinary progress in their studies, and many of the older pupils felt that they were parting not only with a superior instructor but with a personal friend, who had constantly made their interests his, and was always ready to give them needed counsel and assistance.

Since his departure the school has not been a success. To a certain extent this is due to the fact that each teacher must have a different method, and the transition from one to another demands no small amount of labor and exercise of patience. In the case under consideration, the natural and inherent difficulties were aggravated by a positive unwillingness on the part of some to accept the situation. While a number have done cheerfully whatever was required of them, and by diligent application have steadily and rapidly advanced, others have exhibited a spirit of dis-

satisfaction and insubordination which has proved of great injury to themselves and to the general good order and welfare of the school.

In every instance your Superintendent is convinced that the trouble has not arisen from any lack of ability, earnestness, or kindly feeling on the part of the one whose duty it was to teach, but solely from the unreasonable and refractory behavior of those who were sent to learn, but would not. Such a state of things is much to be regretted, since, aside from other consequences, precious time has been deliberately wasted, and opportunities rejected which will not come again.

Every school has its reputation in its own keeping. It can choose whether it will be governed by muscle or by mind. The Centre has shown that it possesses the ability to excel, and there is reason to believe that in the future its intelligent self-respect and sense of honor will go far toward holding in wholesome restraint any small minority of its members who have not yet learned that the first lesson for a pupil to acquire is obedience, and that without it there can be no education worth the name.

In this connection it may be well to say that in one important particular the prospects of the ultimate efficiency of the Centre school are especially encouraging. For a long time it was evident that a single unassisted teacher could not do full justice to so many pupils, varying in age from five to sixteen, and reaching a total of between fifty and sixty in number. With the view of securing equal advantages to all, it was resolved to try the experiment of grading the classes into a primary and a grammar department, giving to each a separate building and a distinct system of tuition.

The new arrangement went into operation with the beginning of the Fall term, and thus far it has proved to be

a decided advance upon the former method. If such had not been the case it would have indeed been strange.

The value of the principle of a division of labor in most mechanical employments is now fully recognized, and the time is rapidly approaching when its utility in educational matters will be equally plain. If it requires twenty workmen to make and finish a shoe for the market, it certainly should not be considered singular if the services of more than one person were needed in teaching a child how to think and handle facts. The additional expense incurred is small, the gain is evident; and if parents will lend their influence and cordial co-operation, what has been done, will, we trust, be but the promise and pledge of still better things to come.

In the Cochesett Grammar School one very noticeable feature is the number of those who have been perfect in attendance. Their names, with those of others, will be found in the Roll of Honor appended to this report. As an index of the interest felt it is a valuable record.

The general condition of this school is in all respects commendable, and the advanced classes in grammatical analysis and algebra are fully prepared to take up difficult work.

In the lower room much attention has been paid to correct and expressive reading, and the written exercises on the blackboard show that a good deal of labor has been well spent in that direction.

The teacher of the South Primary states that she can see that the children under her care are constantly gaining in power of diligent application, and all those who visit the school must, we think, receive the same favorable impression.

Within the year a class has been formed in oral instruction in Geography, and by this means the dry bones of that

usually uninteresting study have been clothed with life. Another exercise, and one peculiar to this school, requires each pupil to write daily a detailed description of some familiar object, or narrate the substance of a short story read to them by the teacher.

By this means the habit of close and accurate observation is gradually developed, and at the same time the child is taught, not only how to spell words, but also how to use them in the most effective manner.

If this exercise could be adopted in all our primary and mixed schools, it would be productive of good in many ways.

A regular part of the course in the South Intermediate consists in frequent and searching examinations by written tests. It is a pleasure to look over the papers handed in for inspection. All exhibit neatness and care, and several would reflect credit on any high school.

If more parents would endeavor to be present at the closing exercises they would have the satisfaction of discovering not merely what their children know, but also what the children themselves are sure they know.

After many changes, the North School seems at last to have secured the right person to take charge of it, and during the year all has gone on smoothly and prosperously.

In the North Centre the recent resignation of Mrs. Toothaker leaves a vacancy difficult to fill. Her seven terms of service have given the school a rank second to none, and the sorrow felt at her departure found expression in a farewell address read by one of the pupils, accompanied by a handsome and useful testimonial of their regard.

At the East there has been some friction, and consequently less progress than would otherwise have been the

case, though a number of the advanced scholars are doing well, as their recitations bear witness.

At the close of the summer term several of the older members of the Jerusalem School finished their studies and withdrew. Since then the average attendance has been very small, on some days numbering only seven. This has made the teacher's work rather discouraging, since it is impossible to have a spirit of emulation when classes are reduced to their lowest terms. Still, considerable has been done and more will be when opportunity is given. The reading and writing both deserve notice, and the general deportment is all that could be desired.

In closing this report it is but simple justice to add that the high degree of efficiency observable in the schools, as a whole, is owing, first, to the conscientious labor of a corps of intelligent and faithful teachers; secondly, to the influence of the lady who for a number of years discharged the duties of Superintendent in such a manner as to command the respect and win the confidence and good-will of the entire community. To-day we are reaping the results of her counsel and her culture; and if in the near future she shall return, with renewed health, let us hope that it will be to resume the position which she held so long and so honorably.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID H. MONTGOMERY,
Superintendent.

ROLL OF HONOR.

This list contains the names of those pupils who have been neither absent nor tardy during an entire term, with the number of terms of perfect attendance opposite each name.

Cochesett Grammar.

Lura Alger,	1	Josie Collins,	2
Eva Cole,	1	Mary Ames,	1
Lillie Ames,	1	Sadie Collins,	1
Lillie Cole,	1	Hattie Jennings,	2
Blanche Jennings,	1	Dora Dewyer,	1
Mary Tisdale,	1	A. Clinton Alger,	1
May Jennings,	1		

Cochesett Primary.

Alida Shaw,	2	Gevie Dewyer,	1
Ansel Alger,	1	Frank Dorgan,	1
Belle Alger,	1	Ethel Vosmus,	1

Centre Grammar.

Lucy Tisdale,	1	Jennie Thorpe,	1
Fred. B. Tisdale,	1	George F. Logue,	1
Edith Snell,	1		

Centre Primary.

Clarence S. Atwell,	2	Ralph Fobes,	1
Willie Wixon,	1	Charles Lothrop,	1
Freddie Wixon,	1	Emily J. Morse,	1
Eveline Ripley,	1	Lottie Logue,	2
Charles M. Logue,	1	Howard Billings,	1
George Connor,	1	Lemuel F. Williams,	1

South Intermediate.

Nellie Buttomer,	1	Patrick Cashion,	1
Maggie Connice,	2	Julia Connice,	2
Nellie Cashion,	3	Mary O'Neil,	2

South Primary.

Willie Luddy,	3	Johnnie Cashman,	2
John Sullivan,	1		

North.

Elliott S. Keith,	1	Lester French,	2
Mary C. Keith,	1	Grace M. Perkins,	1
Willie S. Turner,	1	James C. Keith,	1
John R. Perkins,	1		

North Centre.

Lida Copeland,	1	Arthur Copeland,	2
Mary McDonald,	1	Myron Snell,	1

EAST.

Annie K. Barrell,	1	Florence Keen,	2
Flora F. Keen,	1	Laura Keen,	2
George Colwell,	3	Susie K. Washburn,	1
Nellie M. Clifford,	1	Lillie M. Pratt,	1
Jamie Clifford,	1	Willie Clifford,	1
Edwin H. Thayer,	1	Josie Thayer,	1

JERUSALEM.

Kate Egan,	3

SECTION OF AMENDED STATE LAW.

Every person having under his control a child between the ages of eight and fourteen years, shall annually cause such child to attend some public day-school in the city or town in which he resides, at least twenty weeks; which time shall be divided into two terms, each of ten consecutive weeks, so far as the arrangement of school-terms will allow; and for every neglect of such duty, the party offending shall forfeit, to the use of the public schools of such city or town, a sum not exceeding twenty dollars.

Table of Statistics.

SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS.		Length of School in Months.	Wages of Teacher per Month.	Number of Pupils.	Average Attendance.	Percentage of Attendance.
COCHESETT — *Grammar Department.*						
M. C. Gay,	Summer,	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$40	26	15	.59
	Fall,	$2\frac{1}{2}$	40	38	34	.81
	Winter,	$3\frac{1}{4}$	40	38	31	.84
COCHESETT — *Primary Department.*						
Irene S. Wood,	Summer,	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$34	44	28	.63
	Fall,	$2\frac{1}{2}$	34	38	31	.81
	Winter,	3	34	30	23	.76
CENTRE GRAMMAR.						
W. H. Stone, W. D. Jackson, Sarah Walker,*	Summer,	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$48	53	50	.92
Alice Shepard,	Fall,	$2\frac{1}{2}$	36	26	20	.77
	Winter,	3	36	25	19	.77
CENTRE PRIMARY.						
Mattie M. Allen,	Fall,	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$30	29	24	.83
	Winter,	3	30	30	22	.73
SOUTH INTERMEDIATE.						
M. A. Dewyer,	Summer,	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$34	33	27	.85
	Fall,	3	34	29	21	.71
	Winter,	$2\frac{1}{2}$	34	26	20	.77
SOUTH PRIMARY.						
W. A. Holmes,	Summer,	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$34	33	28	.84
	Fall,	3	34	36	30	.84
	Winter,	$2\frac{1}{2}$	34	31	27	.87
NORTH SCHOOL.						
M. B. Wyman,	Summer,	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$34	20	18	.90
	Fall,	$2\frac{1}{2}$	34	19	17	.85
	Winter,	3	34	18	16	.88

* Assistant teacher of primary pupils for one term, at $18 per month.

Table of Statistics—Continued.

SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS.		Length of School in Months.	Wages of Teacher per Month.	Number of Pupils.	Average Attendance.	Percentage of Attendance.
NORTH CENTRE.						
Mrs. L. M. Toothaker,	Summer,	2½	$34	20	17	.85
	Fall,	2½	34	20	17	.85
	Winter,	2	34	23	17	.78
EAST SCHOOL.						
M. A. Thayer,	Summer,	2½	$36	33	27	.81
Anna Wheeler,	Fall,	2½	36	30	23	.78
	Winter,	3	36	35	28	.81
JERUSALEM.						
Anna Wheeler,	Summer,	2½	$34	19	14	.74
Jennie Bird,	Fall,	2½	34	17	14	.82
	Winter,	3	34	13	10	.76

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